

Celebrating 35 Years With The ASHS As Breeders

The Laws Of Yarrawa Park

Writer: Joy Poole (OAM)

The Law Family of Swan Vale, NSW, like so many of our long term breeders have continued to produce quality horses through droughts, bushfires, floods, personal disasters, poor commodity prices and everything life on the land can throw at you.

In the early 1970s when The Australian Stock Horse Society was forming, also occurring was the greatest cattle recession in living memory. Good weaner steers were making \$10, cows and calves \$20 and so it went, on some bad days it was hard to even find a buyer.

"In those hard times," said Barry Law, "we made a living out of RIVOLI RAY. We always had him in terrific condition and we would take him to a show, people liked him and sent their mares to him."

Barry and wife Annette were not alone as many people I have spoken to over the years lived through the cattle recession on their stallion.

The Law's first stallion, RIVOLI RAY, has gone on to be the most influential Impact Stallion in The Australian Stock Horse Society. At 5th April 2005 he had 7,327 descendants registered with The Australian Stock Horse Society. He is only headed on the overall sire's list by ABBEY, REALITY and his own sire PETER.

RIVOLI RAY was an eyecatching black horse and the more you looked, the more you liked him. He was rarely beaten in a led class and some of his major wins included Champion Led Horse at Sydney Royal [three times], Brisbane Royal [twice] and the Dubbo

NSW Championships. He, however was not only a "pretty face" but an outstanding working and campdraft horse.

"I remember one day when I had a broken leg and we had to cut out some sale cattle," said Barry, "my young son, Perry, was riding him and he was just so clever he dazzled the cattle."

He also dazzled the judge at Expo 75 in Adelaide when for two of his three cut out scores the judge awarded him 24 points. In those early days, RIVOLI RAY was one of the stars of The Australian Stock Horse Society and he never disappointed as his descendants have gone on to do outstanding things.



Peter Gower

Barry Law with RIVOLI RAY - Expo 1975 Adelaide



Annette Law with RIVOLI RAY after winning the coveted Barnes Trophy in 1976

The next venture into a sire for the Law Family was the purchase of DICKIE BAR JOE.

“At the time recalls Barry we thought that sprint racing would take off in Australia and DICKIE BAR JOE had all the credentials to produce sprint horses.”

DICKIE BAR JOE did produce sprint horses but this horse discipline never grew as Barry would have liked. This horse however proved a versatile sire producing led horses and campdrafters. Three of his best known progeny were YARRAWA MARAMA Supreme Led Sydney, Champion Mare Brisbane and winner of 55 Champions, YARRAWA JOSIETTE winner of 18 Open Campdrafts and 45 highest cut outs and YARRAWA GENIE BAR multiple winner of campdrafts, led and working.

When the Laws purchased their next stallion in partnership with Phillip Frame they had to top price the Nabinabah Sale to do so. David Archibald of Gundy, Scone, was an astute breeder and was one of the first Australian Stock Horse breeders to have on farm sales. He had helping assist him and his family with the Nabinabah horses, the great horseman, Bobby Palmer. He had given Bobby, as a gift, what was to prove one of the greatest mares of all time, NABINABAH BREEZETTE. The Palmer Family showed her with great success, winning Champion Led in Sydney, Champion Working and The World Championship Campdraft on no less than six occasions. She was by the Foundation Stallion, NABINABAH THE GUN and out of the Foundation Mare, NABINABAH COMMA. What was even as important was that this mare's siblings all proved highly successful too. So when her full brother came up for auction at the Nabinabah Sale everyone knew it would be the top priced lot and it was. The colt NABINABAH COOL GUN was knocked down to Law and Frame and he certainly lived up to all expectations.

NABINABAH COOL GUN has produced over 70 individual winners of campdrafts as well as led and working horses. His daughter YARRAWA ROSALINA II was the NSW Champion Working Stock Horse, winner of leds and 18 campdrafts and YARRAWA MISS EIGHTY NINE ER won ten open campdrafts.

“The great thing about NABINABAH COOL GUN,” said Barry, “is that he has given us some wonderful broodmares for the stud.”

This great sire was put down last May at the age of 26 years but prior to this the Law Family had already commenced their search for new genetics.

“My son, Codie, was very keen to introduce the outstanding WARRENBRI ROMEO line to our horses. We had the opportunity

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to purchase a yearling colt in partnership with Bill and Delta Sparkes. I have always found Bill to be a very astute horseman and he was particularly keen on this colt as he was not only by a very good sire in MCNAMARA ACROBAT but out of a powerful female line that for four generations had produced or been campdraft winners. This colt was called BEAUVIEW LANCE. Not only did he introduce WARRENBRI ROMEO to our horses but also ABBEY who was the sire of MCNAMARA ACROBAT's dam, COMARA CINDERS.”

The ill-fated MCNAMARA ACROBAT was very interestingly bred, being by the Impact Stallion, WARRENBRI ROMEO, who was by the Foundation Stallion, REALITY and WARRENBRI ROMEO was out of the Impact Mare, WARRENBRI JULIE. MCNAMARA ACROBAT was out of COMARA CINDERS by the Foundation Stallion, ABBEY out of the Chan mare GLENGARRY ANN. Theo Hill told me that he felt the best ABBEY cross was when you put him to Chan mares. A colt by MCNAMARA ACROBAT, WALDRONS STARMAN, is currently being used in Texas to breed polocrosse ponies.

MCNAMARA ACROBAT was only nominated for the ACA Campdraft Award once and duly won it in 2004. During that year he had 12 horses that won 14 campdrafts in nine consecutive weeks and then ten horses won 12 campdrafts in seven consecutive weeks.

With the purchase of BEAUVIEW LANCE, the Law Family have also picked up some repeat breeding on the dam's side and the introduction of Foundation Stallion, ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET. BEAUVIEW LANCE's dam, MCNAMARA TRENDY, is by NABINABAH SHOGUN, a full brother to their late sire, NABINABAH COOL GUN and out of Maramé, who was by



Yarrowa Park Campdrafting Mares

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET. Her half sister LELANT SAROON was the dam of Peter Comiskey's MCNAMARA SMUGGLER, M Atthows, COORINYA SACRAMENTO and Peter Bradley's MCNAMARA IMPACT. Maramé's dam, Petunia, by champion campdraft sire, Gentle Prince, was also the dam of Rick Payne's open campdrafters Sarne and LELANT SAROON. Petunia's dam Silhouette was Ken Payne's champion mare that won over 20 open campdrafts. An incredible campdraft female line!

As a five year old BEAUVIEW LANCE has had only limited opportunities to display his potential but is already the winner of champion leads, working and campdrafts.

"One of the things we were most impressed about with BEAUVIEW LANCE," said Barry "was his black, rock hard feet. Codie worked him around the place and there was never any need to shoe him until we took him out."

In the beginning the Yarrawa horses were performed by Barry and his wife Annette but now the performance side is in the hands of Codie Law and his wife, Natalie, who are proving very successful competitors. The Border Branch that the Laws are part of holds annual competitions that are very keenly contested. Through the years Codie, as a junior, won The Junior Award on six consecutive occasions and since joining the senior ranks has been the Open Rider on ten occasions. He has piloted the winner of the Open Campdraft Horse on nine occasions, YARRAWA ROSALINA II [three times], YARRAWA MISS EIGHTY NINE ER [three times], YARRAWA CASSETTE [twice] and YARRAWA TOPPERETTE. Codie has campdrafted at Sydney and Melbourne Royals, placed in the National Futurity and Maturity four times and at the recent Australian Stock Horse Nationals at Warwick won The Series 9 Maiden Draft Final.

Natalie, who had never Camp Drafted until she met Codie, has, under Barry and Codie's instruction proved a very capable student. Natalie started in encouragement drafts and riding horses the quality of YARRAWA TOPPERETTE and YARRAWA RAMONA has gone on to make the ABCRA National Finals twice, has won the Border Branch ASH and Lady Rider and the Border Zone ABCRA Lady Rider in 2003. With these two talented riders the Yarrawa horses are in good hands as far as performing them goes. Waiting in the wings is baby, Riley, who is champing at the bit to get started.

Barry has a four year old colt that he feels they will use later as a sire, KNEIPPS CONRAY.

"He is the first foal by the exciting sire, HAZELWOOD CONMAN," said Barry. "He will once again tap into those current trends in Australian Stock Horse breeding. HAZELWOOD CONMAN is by DOGWOOD COMET who is by ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET out of DOGWOOD MADAM who is by RIVOLI RAY. HAZELWOOD CONMAN is out of one of the greatest WARRENBRI ROMEO mares of all time, HAZELWOOD ROMANCE. The dam of KNEIPPS CONRAY, BOONAL SERENADE, was Border Branch Novice Horse in 1995 but was retired later that year due to her owner's injury. She was regarded by many to be one of the best mares they had ever seen. She was by the Impact Sire, WARRENBRI ROMEO and out of CANTANA who is by RIVOLI RAY."

"Today," continues Barry, "the stud has approximately 15 broodmares by NABINABAH COOL GUN, WARRENBRI ROMEO, WARRENBRI OMEGA, ADIOS REFLECT and COMARA TOPLINE combined with the bloodlines of RIVOLI RAY, ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET and NABINABAH COOL GUN. The Stud currently has 25 competition and ridden mares of these bloodlines."

The Law Family in 2003 celebrated 50 years of breeding Australian Stock Horses. They have, through the years, depended on the traditional foundation lines to build their stud to where they are today. Looking at the breeding of BEAUVIEW LANCE and KNEIPPS CONRAY they are also depending on those tried and true lines to take them to the future. 🇺🇸



Above: BEAUVIEW LANCE
 Left: Codie Law riding YARRAWA MISS EIGHTY NINE ER
 Below: KNEIPPS CONRAY

