

## PALMERS SISSY - FM

ASH Reg: 21586

The story of PALMERS SISSY-FM is also the story of another mare, PALMERS TANGO. What did the two mares have in common? Take a sire called Fort Keil, add in a heartbreaking act of nature and the way is paved for PALMERS SISSY - FM to take her place in Australian Stock Horse history.

The story starts with the stallion Fort Keil, an unregistered thoroughbred horse, that stood in the Nundle area and a mare called Fay. Initially these two horses were in the possession of Donny Creighton of Nundle but when he sold out, the horses were then taken over by well known ASH identity Joe Burr, also of Nundle. Fort Keil and Fay (who was by Percy with a double cross of Cecil), were to be mated on a number of occasions to produce a family of outstanding campdrafters. The progeny included GLEN OAK PIVOT, a successful mare who had three registered progeny including the very successful sire, GLEN OAK RIVOT. This stallion was by REALITY - FS and had 132 registered progeny. PALMERS TANGO was another daughter who was a champion campdraft mare of her era and was purchased by legendary horseman, Jack Palmer, who went on to win many campdrafts on her and QUICK STEP, a great mare for Gerry Ryan, who later would produce 10 registered foals.

The good horses did not stop there as they also produced the good campdraft mares, VALETTA that Joe Burr owned and ended up as a broodmare for Ken Brown, and MAMBO who was ridden by Peter Taylor. You may have started to realise that all the horses were named after dances so it was fitting that a stallion which Joe Burr bred from this mating would be called TARWARRI MEDLEY. This horse not only proved a great performer but also a great sire (91 progeny). Among his progeny were Maurice Mitchell's great campdraft mare, FONTEYN, and the exceptional stallion TARWARRI MEDALLION (147 progeny).

This horse produced some outstanding progeny including the National Futurity winners HINDE DOT and NEVLYN DAWN and Allan Young's great campdraft mare, GREENDALE EVITA. Other foals from the Fort Keil/Fay combination were ERINS PRIDE LADY and TINDAROO TEZABELL.

As mentioned earlier, Jack Palmer had wonderful success with his mare, PALMERS TANGO, winning numerous campdrafts and proving a very hard competitor to beat. The time came to breed from Tango and of course the best horse was looked for to mate to the great mare and the choice was made; Jack and Ivy Palmer would send their mare to ABBEY - FS. What jubilation when the mare had a colt foal but 10 days later the joy turned to despair. A storm came through Thornthwaite Station and Tango and her foal were in front of the stables when a bolt of lightning struck the mare, leaving the little foal an orphan. Jack and Ivy were to hand rear the foal which would later become the successful sire, ABBEY TANGO (32).

And this is where the PALMERS SISSY - FM story began. Losing such a great mare,



ABDUL - IS

the Palmers looked for another mare by Fort Keil to replace Tango as a broodmare. "Jack approached me," said Joe Burr, "to try to get a full sister to Tango. I said that I could not do that but I would try to get one for him that was closely related to Tango. I had a mare called Birdie that had been left to me by Roy Moffett in his will and I sold Sissy who was out of Birdie by Fort Keil to Jack as an unbroken filly as a replacement for Tango."

Joyce Palmer takes up the story, "I remember Roy Moffett well, for years he looked after the campdraft cattle and the rodeo stock at Sydney Royal. He used to ride a lovely quiet mare, which was Birdie, to do the job. He also brought the surcingles back on her."

So the dam of Sissy was well known to the Palmers. Joyce continued, "We sent PALMERS SISSY - FM to ABDUL - IS and she produced a colt that we named PALMERS FORT ABDUL. We broke him in and we showed him at the Hunter Breed Show the day before we sold him at the Hunter Australian Stock Horse Sale. I remember he won his led class that day."

PALMERS SISSY - FM ASH Reg: 21586	Fort Keil	Keelie	Cameronian
			Lovely Peg
		Melfort Lass	Melfort
	Birdie	Val Beau	Time Will Tell
		Mesquitin Mare	Mesquitin
			Unknown Dam





**PALMERS FORT ABDUL**

PALMERS FORT ABDUL was to find his way to Queensland where he proved to be a wonderful performance horse. He has 149 currently registered progeny including the excellent stallions BRYJEN FORT TALON (66), DINKUM PEPSI (61) and CADABRA.

"I bought PALMERS FORT ABDUL from Dalby when he was about 5 years old," said Vic Gough, "I don't think I put a saddle on him for another six months as we were so busy at the time. We really never took him out that much and we only used him with a couple of mares of our own initially but he just got so many good show horses that people started to know him. I mainly campdrafted him and put him in a few challenges. He had the most beautiful temperament and was the surest footed, best balanced horse you would ever ride."

"My brother Glen once said to me, 'Some horses are lucky, others unlucky when campdrafting and I would term PALMERS FORT ABDUL a very unlucky horse in campdrafting.'"

PALMERS Sissy - FM's next foal was a mare called PALMERS Sissian by NABINABAH THE GUN - FS which never had any recorded progeny. Her third foal was a colt, also by NABINABAH THE GUN - FS.

"At this time we were working for David Archibald at the Nabinabah Stud," continued Joyce. "You know how it is, we looked around one day and we had more horses than Dave! We decided we would sell some broodmares and PALMERS Sissy - FM was one of them. We sold her to Les Keys of the Betterview Stud with the colt foal at foot by NABINABAH THE GUN - FS."

I wonder has anybody ever bought a mare with a better foal at foot?! The foal was later registered as BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE. This horse was shown for Les Keys by Kevin Johnston who was to win Supreme Led ASH at Brisbane Royal. The horse was purchased by the Vary Family to use in their Riverview Stud when BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE was about seven years old.

Paul Vary recalls, "At the North Coast ASH Show at Bonalbo in 1993, Dad won Supreme Led with him and also won the Working Stallion. I rode him in campdrafts winning cut outs and being placed in maidens, novices and opens but never winning a campdraft. Maybe if I rode him now when I know a lot more than I did then it may have been different!"

BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE went on to be an outstanding sire producing RIVERVIEW SNOWY who won the Warwick Gold Cup.

*PALMERS Sissy-FM has the distinction, as a broodmare, of producing two highly influential stallions - PALMERS FORT ABDUL and BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE.*

And here the story harks back to the great combination of Fort Kiel and Fay for BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE, when purchased by the Vary Family, was to have a great association with a mare called RIVERVIEW TOPSY. At this time she has been mated to BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE 10 times to produce RIVERVIEW SNOWY - The Warwick Gold Cup, RIVER VIEW LIGHTNING - Champion Working Mare Toowoomba Royal, RIVER VIEW SNOWETTE - Champion Led Mare, Reserve Champion Working the 2003 Nationals and RIVERVIEW TOPFIRE - The Cloncurry Stockman's Challenge. No doubt more is yet to come as six of her foals are still under seven years old.

Paul is enthusiastic when he talks about BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE's progeny, "They are very soft horses to handle, they have a lot of feel in their rib cages and are fairly calm horses that are very good to ride."



**BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE, Champion Led ASH Stallion, Supreme Champion Stock Horse, Brisbane Royal 1983.**



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The fourth foal from PALMERS SISSY - FM was BETTERVIEW ABDELLE, once again by ABDUL - IS and a full sister to PALMERS FORT ABDUL.

"I bought her when she was a three year old," said Vic Gough, "and she was a really good mare. In five months she went from a maiden to an open horse. I sold her at Dalby and have always regretted selling her."

BETTERVIEW ABDELLE was to have five registered foals.

PALMERS SISSY - FM then appeared to change hands again on three occasions and although she produced TEMONA TAMMY, BUNDALEER TESSA, BUNDALEER MONIQUE and ROXBY PARK ABBAKEYS no progeny from these horses was ever recorded. Her success in the Stud Book has come from two outstanding sire sons - PALMERS FORT ABDUL and BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE and her daughter BETTERVIEW ABDELLE.

Looking at the pedigree of PALMERS SISSY - FM we find that she is by Fort Keil. Although never registered himself into the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book, Fort Keil had 14 registered progeny. Fort Keil comes from the era when many Thoroughbreds were not returned to the Stud Book. However his sire Keelie (GB 1934) was an imported registered Thoroughbred proving a good racehorse by winning the 1941 Bagot Handicap over 12 furlongs. Keelie's sire Cameronian (GB 1928) produced other Principal Race winners in Finis (GB) 1941 Ascot Gold Cup, Glolite (GB) the SAF Cup and Scottish Union (GB) the GB St Leger 1938 and the GB Middle Park Stakes 1938. Cameronian was by Pharos (GB 1920) which takes him back to the ASH Taproot Sire Cyllene (GB 1895) through Phalaris (GB 1913) and Polymelus (GB 1902).

Fort Keil was out of a mare called Melfort Lass who was by Melfort. Melfort was the sire of six stakes winners. Melfort is by Colorado (GB 1923) who also goes back to Cyllene through Phalaris and Polymelus.

Melfort Lass was out of Time Will Tell (AUS 1925) who was by Sarchedon (GB 1917) who was by The Tetrarch (GB 1911).

On the dam's side Birdie was by Valbeau (AUS 1933) who is listed in the ASB as being by Valiard (AUS 1921) who is by Valais (GB 1913) who once again goes back to Cyllene through Cicero (GB 1902). Val Beau is out of an unidentified mare.

Birdie is out of a Mesquitin mare about which we have no knowledge.



Paul Vary riding RIVERVIEW SNOWY, 2006 ASH Nationals

PALMERS SISSY - FM has the distinction, as a broodmare, of producing two highly influential stallions - PALMERS FORT ABDUL and BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE. PALMERS FORT ABDUL is now deceased, dying just short of 30 years of age but he has left some excellent sire sons. BETTER VIEW GUNFIRE at 27 is still producing foals so the PALMERS SISSY line appears set to continue on strongly into the future. 🐾



BRYJEN FORT TALON



CADABRA