

Foundation Mare

GLENNNA

ASH Reg: 3543

Writer: Joy Poole (OAM)

"I was only a little girl when my family were performing GLENNNA," recalls Maxine Brooks, [nee McLennan] "but my brother Bill McLennan said that when Dad broke GLENNNA in, she was only broken-in a couple of days and you could gallop her out with just a crupper strap around her neck and stop her and turn her, she was a very intelligent mare. This was a trait of her foals as well. After a couple of days breaking in they were able to be ridden out to do your work on, they were quite remarkable."

GLENNNA was registered as belonging to the McLennan Holdings Partnership which consisted of Ventry McLennan, his wife, Lenore, and their nine children who were all interested in the horses. Later, the McLennan Holdings horses would carry the Yarranoo prefix while Stuart and Nita McLennan would register the Star prefix, both prefixes appearing on the progeny of GLENNNA.

"Dad bought GLENNNA from Ted Cousins at Glencoe on the New England [NSW]," said Maxine, "on the same day Peter Tindal also bought a horse from him that was called Paw Paw. They were all by a horse called Bright Flame, I think Ted Cousins must have owned the horse. Bright Flame got very good stock and I think at one stage nearly all the horses in the Rangers Valley Polocrosse team were by him."

In the 1950s and early 1960s the polocrosse team that was almost invincible was Kuringai. Playing for that team were names like Sergeant Jack Riley, Max Walters, Max Griffiths, Angie Coleman, Pat Hall and the like, players that have become part of polocrosse folk lore.

They played for years without being beaten until they met the Rangers Valley team that hailed from the New England and that was where their dominance ended. After that win everyone spoke of the outstanding horses the Rangers Valley players had, so this will give you an idea of the Bright Flame stock.

Many polocrosse players from Glen Innes and Guyra Clubs also had horses by him including a magnificent grey horse ridden by Blake Finlayson called Solo.

"My brother, Robert, played polocrosse on GLENNNA," continued Maxine, "for the South Grafton Club. GLENNNA had the most incredible suck back in her turns. My eldest brother, Don, described it 'as turning back within herself,' which is a pretty good description. Robert was only 15 when he started playing her and played No 1 in A Grade. If anyone attacked his racket she could sit back and pop up on the other side of the attacking player out in centre field or in the goal scoring area, she was very hard to mark. She was also a very good pony club mare and good at jumping. When she jumped she got right in under the jump and came straight up and over. Her first foal, Cobber, who was never registered with the Australian Stockhorse Society became a top six bar showjumper as he had this same style."

"GLENNNA was a Galloway sized mare just under 15 hands. GLENNNA was born in 1952 and died on 9th August 1979. She lived till she was 27 years old. GLENNNA was a plain looking mare but very tough and was a little bit touchy, not from nastiness but from nervousness. Her foals were good to break-in providing you understood them. They were horses you could never be rough with, if you were, they never forgot it and were very hard to get back on side."

"GLENNNA was only broken in a fortnight when Dad was out riding her and found a cow dead in the bog. He spotted the cow's calf and GLENNNA whinnied to it and started to lick it when they rode over near it. This allowed Dad to get hold of the calf and put it on a stump to make it easier to lean down and pull it onto GLENNNA'S neck and carry it home. She became a bit of a nuisance as later on she would take a calf away from a cow and mother it, if you ran her with cows and calves. Her daughter

	Blue Flame
	Flying Cinders
	Ashburn
Bright Flame	La Flavers
	Colomea
	Bess
GLENNNA - FM ASH Reg: 3543	Son In Law
	Dark Fox
	Radegonde
Dark Nell	Promised Land
	Nells Promise
	Unknown Dam

YARRANOO BELLE, who I carried a lot of calves home on in droughts, would do the same if you ran her with cows and calves.

GLENNNA had seven registered foals and two that weren't registered. Cobber, who we mentioned earlier, was by the Foundation Stallion BALD HILLS ECHO and he went on to be a top six bar jumper; the other unregistered mare was crippled. The first of her registered foals was YARRANOO BELLE by Sheedys Radar who was by the Foundation Stallion BALD HILLS ECHO and out of the Foundation Mare YARRANOO BANGLES. Ventry only used Sheedys Radar with a few mares and gelded him before his foals were born as he reckoned he paddled a little bit. When



the foals arrived they were outstanding and Ventry always declared that gelding Sheedys Radar was one of the greatest mistakes of his life but all was not lost, as Sheedys Radar went on to win at Royal Shows in four States and was an outstanding show performer.

YARRANOO BELLE was broken in by Maxine and proved a highly successful mare winning led, working and numerous campdrafts.

"I remember coming second to Gwen Chicken in the Ladies campdraft at Warwick in 1976 on YARRANOO BELLE. This mare produced some good foals including the polocrosse and dressage horse YARRANOO SALAMAGUNDI. This horse was Champion Mens Australian Stock Horse at the National Polocrosse Titles in Launceston and in the winning Mens team at the Nationals at Forbes.

GLENNA'S next three foals were by a horse called COLLUM SIMMER who was by the Foundation Stallion, WARDANCE. The McLennans bred some good foals by COLLUM SIMMER before selling him.

"Dad was very good at selling horses," said Maxine, "I would ride out of the ring with a ribbon on and the next thing Dad would tell me he had just sold my horse. I wish I was more like him and I wouldn't have so many horses!"

"The first of these COLLUM SIMMER foals was a mare called GLENDON that was sold to the property where my brother Ken worked. She also went on to breed a very good polocrosse mare that was played by Jane Stone [nee Ramage]."

The second foal by COLLUM SIMMER went to Stuart McLennan, STAR GLENNAS DAUGHTER. This mare proved the broodmare to end all broodmares. Her first foal was the outstanding camp draft mare YARRANOO MUSIC owned and ridden by Bruce McNaughton. YARRANOO MUSIC produced two sire sons, OAKS BANJO and BELFIELD PROFIT. STAR GLENNAS DAUGHTER also produced the mares STAR HIGH SOCIETY and STAR CAROUSAL who produced the sires, NONDA MUSIC MAN, NONDA YOTHU YINDI and NONDA GURINDJI. To finish off on a high note STAR GLENNAS DAUGHTER's last four foals, all by STAR BLACK MINSTRIL, produced three highly successful sire sons in STAR CARUSO [44 progeny], STAR BRIGADOON [57] and STAR PAVAROTTI [64].

The third foal by COLLUM SIMMER was a colt, YARRANOO GLENCOE [20 progeny] who was a successful sire for Bill McLennan. Unfortunately, he cut an artery and died quite young but he produced some very good stock including the granddam of Charlie Brook's great polocrosse mare NONDA NATIVE BEBOPALOOPA.

"As a matter of fact," said Maxine, "a lot of the broodmares we have had success with have YARRANOO GLENCOE in their pedigrees."

"GLENNA's next foal, BEAU RIVIL, was by a horse called War Chief who was by COLLUM SIMMER out of the Foundation Mare, SISTER MONTY. War Chief was a full brother to Fraser Ramsey's great horse, ROXBY PARK FREEDOM. Dad sold him to Papua New Guinea where he stood in the Ramu Valley out of Lae at Leron Plains Station and produced some good polocrosse and station horses for them. BEAU RIVIL was sold to Roy Toohey in Queensland and he won many campdrafts including the Proston Golden Spurs for him. I understand he left some handy horses."

"In 1974 GLENNA had YARRANOO DARK GLEN. This was an accidental mating as STAR BLACK MINSTRIL jumped the fence when he was a young colt and got GLENNA in foal. YARRANOO DARK GLEN had the 'wow' factor from the day she was born. She was the reason STAR BLACK MINSTRIL was kept a colt. I broke her in," said Maxine, "and, true to the GLENNA breed, three days after starting I was out mustering on her. This was a beautiful mare, you could win the champion hack and the open campdraft on the same programme with her. I remember at one show I had just won the Champion Hack with her and only had time to change my saddle before taking my place in the open campdraft. I still had my jodhpurs and long boots on and took quite a ribbing from the campdraft competitors but it was all worthwhile as she won the Open Campdraft as well! In 1980 I won the All Round ASHLA Rider Title on her after being successful in led, hack, working and campdrafting. YARRANOO DARK GLEN as a broodmare produced handy polocrosse and campdrafting horses."

Left: Robert McLennan (on the right) at 16 years old on GLENNA throwing a goal for South Grafton Club in the 1960's. On the left of him is Murray McKinnon marking him playing for Lismore.

Below: Ventry McLennan and YARRANOO DARK GLEN 1984





"The McLennan Family have proved very astute horse buyers, breeders and competitors over the years and are responsible for registering three mares that have gained the prestigious title of Foundation Mare"

Left: Maxine Brooks (then Donovan) on YARRANOO BELLE. 2nd Ladies Campdraft at Warwick Rodeo 1976

"GLENNA's last foal was a gelding called KINKA LITTLE MAC by STAR BLACK MINSTRIL. I loved this little horse. He proved a great campdraft horse for Joyce Lloyd of Wowan in Queensland winning 15 campdrafts for her. Her daughter, Gem, won a lot of rodeo events with him. Later I received photos from Joelen Honeychurch in Victoria who had bought him and was also doing very well with him. In 1991 she won the National GBRA Junior Rookie Barrel Racing Title on him when he was 16 years old. I broke this horse in as well as YARRANOO BELLE, BEAU RIVIL, YARRANOO SALAMAGUNDI, YARRANOO ANNABELLE, YARRANOO MUSIC and YARRANOO DARK GLEN and a lot of her granddaughters so I certainly had a lot to do with the GLENNA foals," said Maxine.

Looking at the breeding of GLENNA we find some very interesting horses. Her sire, Bright Flame, produced some top horses including Laurie Mills' Warwick Gold Cup horse, MILLS STUD BALDY. Ventry McLennan also put his mare Back Opal to him and produced Maxine's great pony club mount, Maurice. Peter Tindal had a great peg event and campdrafter called Paw Paw that was by Bright Flame. GLENNA and Paw Paw fought out many tight finishes in flag and bending races.

Bright Flame was by Flying Cinders who was by Blue Flame. Blue Flame (GB 1924) was imported to Australia and produced the Stakes Winner, Cid. Blue Flame was by the champion sire Phalaris who was by Polymelus who went back to the Australian Stock Horse tap root sire, Cyllene.

It is interesting to note that another Foundation Mare carries some of this breeding. GLENGARRY ANN - FM is out of a mare called Troy who was by Flying Cinders by Blue Flame out of Ashburn.

Bright Flame was out of Colomea who was by La Flavers. Colomea was out of Bess who was by Cecil.

GLENNA is out of Dark Nell whose breeding has recently been altered in keeping with this article. Dark Nell is by Dark Fox who is by Son In Law and out of Nellis Promise who is by Promised Land.

Promised Land is proving a very influential tap root Australian Stock Horse sire as he appears in the pedigree of Foundation mare GLENNA, he is the sire of Why Not - the dam of Foundation Stallion, PETER, which then also places him in the pedigrees of the Impact Sires, RIVOLI RAY and YALLATUP RIVOLI REX. Ron Robinson's horses all trace back to his great mare, Tarzan, who was also by Promised Land.

Charlie Quelch, breeder of PETER, spoke very highly of Promised Land and mentioned a great campdrafter that Bob Campbell had by him called Blackout.

Promised Land was imported by Otto Baldwin and he obviously stood him to station horses as well as Thoroughbreds in the Manila area. Promised Land was by a very good sire, Dark Ronald (GB1905). He produced horses the quality of Maggie (1918) a Principal Race winner, Harold, who won the German Derby and Ethiopian who was a great galloper himself and produced good horses.

An interesting aside about Promised Land has emerged during the writing of this article. Bill McLennan was talking years ago to a Mrs Bill Middleton from Lismore who had been well up in the racing game for years. She said that Promised Land was an exceptional galloper and unbeatable on country tracks. Unfortunately he only had one eye and was unable to race on Metropolitan tracks.

The McLennan Family have proved very astute horse buyers, breeders and competitors over the years and are responsible for registering three mares that have gained the prestigious title of Foundation Mare - SISTER MONTY, YARRANOO BANGLES and GLENNA, and the Foundation Stallion STAR BLACK MINSTRIL, a stunning achievement in anybody's eyes. 🐾



Below left: YARRANOO GLENCOE as a 4 year old
Below right: Peter Choice on YARRANOO SALAMAGUNDI chosen as best ASH Horse of the Tasmania Polocrosse Nationals 1990