



Impact Mare KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH

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KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH was born in 1983 and bred by Phillip Kirkby of Narrabri, New South Wales. She was a quality, well-conformed mare with good depth of breeding in her pedigree.

Not only did she have good looks but she was able to perform as well. Such bloodlines don't occur by accident, and one can see from her pedigree that she was destined to be better than average.

Her dam was a horse owned by Terry Ryan named RYANS FOUR EX - FM HSH, so technically Terry was the breeder. This mare was by ABBEY - FS HSH and also had good breeding on the dam's side, being by RED RAY - FS HSH and out of a Dimray mare.

Phillip Kirkby took on RYANS FOUR EX - FM HSH as a young mare to break-in and get going, in exchange with Terry Ryan for the right to breed from her, foal for foal. Wanting to capitalise on her good

KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH

Colour: Brown/Black

Height: 15.2hh

Lifespan: 23 years (1983-2006)

Breeder: Terry Ryan/Phillip Kirkby, NSW

Performance: Performance horse and campdrafter

Progeny: Eight foals, the most notable being the stallion KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY - IS HSH.



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|------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sire | QUIDONG BRIGADIER - IS HSH | ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET - FS HSH | commandant 02 respect 02 |
| | | STANTON STUD JAN - FM HSH | chan 02 - WH neita 02 |
| Dam | RYANS FOUR EX - FM HSH | ABBAY - FS HSH | radiant 02 - WH joys pal 02 |
| | | mystery 05 | RED RAY - FS HSH meretha 03 |

breeding, Phillip chose a stallion for her in his own QUIDONG BRIGADIER - IS HSH. This colt was out of STANTON STUD JAN - FM HSH and by ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET - FS HSH, who was considered by

respected horsemen to be perhaps the best campdrafter seen in modern times. Phillip Kirkby bought this colt from the Quidong stud as a weanling and held him in high regard, with a future planned for him as a sire.



Top left: Sue Kirkby and KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH winning Champion Ridden Australian Stock Horse at the 1988 Melbourne Royal Show
Top right: KIRKBYS STUD APOLLO (WARRENBRI OMEGA - IS/ KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH) at the 1998 Dalby ASH Approved Sale
Right: KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH and Glen Gough after winning the 1990 Open campdraft at Bowen, Queensland.

QUIDONG BRIGADIER - IS HSH won Champion Working Horse at the first ASH National Championships in Canberra in 1982 as a three year old, and went on to win numerous other competitions. As a mature horse he was sold to late Barry Sawyer of Victoria, who campaigned him extensively. This stallion was also well-known as the sire of KIRKBYS MAJOR - HSH (1986 Prince of Wales Trophy winner) and KIRKBYS STUD WALLAROO - HSH (1989 Prince of Wales Perpetual Trophy).

Phillip only got to keep RYANS FOUR EX - FM HSH long enough to wean her first foal, as Terry Ryan then sold the mare to the Queensland cattleman and campdrafter Rodger Jefferis. Rodger was having considerable success with her half-brother by ABDUL - IS HSH, RYANS MYAB. This stallion sired many successful campdrafters, a lot of whom were not registered. From 1991-1993, BALETTA PROOF achieved fourth, fifth and ninth placings in consecutive Warwick Gold Cups, amassing wins in 24 drafts and 27 Cut Outs over his career.

Another son, BALETTA SHOESTRING, came second in 1992 and seventh in 1997 in the Warwick Gold Cup, and also third in the Canning Downs in 1995 for Geoff Schrader. He also had 32 Open wins to his credit, including a first and a second in the Grandfather Clock draft at Chinchilla.

Chasing further success, Rodger contacted Terry looking for a horse from the same family and eventually a deal was struck. RYANS FOUR EX - FM HSH was trucked up to Rodger immediately after KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH was weaned from her. Rodger described RYANS FOUR EX - FM HSH as, 'a very capable mare who was especially good in cut-outs'. She won a Maiden and three Progressive campdrafts (now called Novice) in outback Queensland.

So back at Narrabri, the Kirkbys had a young, well-bred mare. Sue Kirkby describes KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH as 'a beautiful-looking, lovely natured mare – a good, honest all-rounder.' She had a great head and neck - the classic Chan front, which she inherited as a third and fourth generation descendant of Chan, having a double cross of this taproot sire of the breed. She was brown, almost black,



and stood at about 15.2hh. While her conformation wasn't flawless, it never affected her performance. She competed for a few years, becoming Sue's favourite horse and performed very successfully in Led, Hack and Working classes and in campdrafting. Amongst her wins is Champion Led Mare and Champion Ridden Australian Stock Horse at Melbourne Royal in 1988, a year after her first foal.

Glen Gough, the master horseman from Queensland, took her for a while when he was short of horses. He won a Maiden and two Open campdrafts on her. 'She was a good type of mare that had a lot of working ability', said Glen. 'She would sometimes get herself into trouble in the camp – but she had the ability to get herself out of it again.'

Unable to do much farm work due to his eyesight problems at the time, Glen started to play around with her and teach her tricks. 'She



Mare KIRKBYS STUD CHEERS - HSH (WARRENBRI OMEGA - IS/ KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH) and Peter Allan in action

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. Glen had her performing "at liberty" displays at a few rodeos and shows. Sue described how at Narrabri one year Glen got the mare to 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'.

This horse is remembered not only for her performances but also for her progeny. Phillip Kirkby's breeding policy saw KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH have one foal as a young mare in 1987. This brown foal by WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS HSH, was the colt KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY - IS HSH, who went on to be a successful competition horse and sire. He did well for Sue and was taken to further heights by Glen Gough, winning many top awards. He since became a successful sire, with 350 foals to date (see following article on KIRKBYS STUD REMEDY - IS HSH).

After a few years as a performance horse, KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH was retired from competition and produced a further seven foals over the next ten years. Again put to WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS HSH, her second foal in 1992 was named KIRKBYS STUD REMINISCE - HSH.

Glen Gough received this bay filly in exchange for his work on her dam, and describes her as the quietest horse he has ever owned. 'She is still here and breeding', said Glen. 'Unlike her mother and full brother, she is no oil painting, but she won a Maiden, a Novice and two Open campdrafts'.

Bred to YALLATUP REGAL REMEDY - HSH, she produced the colt YALLATUP SIR REGINALD - HSH, who won and placed in a number of classes at the 2004 New South Wales Breeders Championships, ridden by David Wilson. He has sired a few horses including YALLATUP REGINA (AUS) - HSH, a filly sold and exported by Glen to Canada with Maryanne Gough's horses.

As a commercial breeder, Phillip was always on the lookout for good new genetics to improve his bloodlines. He bought a half share in Lindsay Knight's colt by WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS HSH, the grey WARRENBRI OMEGA - IS. A Warwick Gold Cup campdraft winner, he was used six times over KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH to produce three colts and three fillies. Phillip explained that, 'this combination produced a very marketable horse', with all the foals being sold and bearing the Kirkbys Stud prefix.

Her first foal by this sire was KIRKBYS STUD APOLLO, a bay gelding born in 1995. He was broken-in and sold to CP Smith at the 1998 Dalby ASH Approved Sale.

In 1996 she had KIRKBYS STUD CHEERS - HSH, a grey filly bought as a going horse by Peter Allan of Emu Creek,

Queensland. In Sue's opinion she was the pick of the KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH foals by this stallion. Peter said, 'She is a very good mare. She has the most naturally good stop - I have never seen another horse that would come close.'

Her record includes winning: Champion Working ASH at the 2002 Chinchilla Branch Futurity, the Working class at the Queensland State Show prior to the Dalby ASH Approved Sale, and placing in the mare classes at the 2005 National Championships in Albury, New South Wales.

She produced three fillies for the Allans, with the eldest, STOCKHAVEN BALLERINA placing at National Championships. As the Allans were scaling back their breeding a few years ago, they sold her and her foal at the Toowoomba ASH Sale, topping the broodmare list at \$25,000. She is now owned by the Ameys at Sutton, New South Wales and is still breeding.

The next foal was KIRKBYS STUD HOPE, a brown filly born in 1997 and bought privately by Tex and Julie Sheedy. With her, they took home many ribbons including second place in the National Futurity at the 2001 National Championships in Scone, New South Wales.

The sixth foal was KIRKBYS STUD GLORY - HSH. Born in 1999, this grey mare was sold broken-in and going to the Atkins Family Partnership from Tamworth. She has produced three colts and three fillies to date - the first was GREEN GULLY MYNSTRAL - HSH, a grey colt by BLUE MOON MYSTIC - IS HSH. This horse featured in the 2009 Melbourne Cup day celebrations by carrying the Cup down the Flemington straight.

Her 2009 filly, ATKINS SUGAR - HSH is now owned by Paige Brusnahan, and was the Victorian state prize winner at this year's National Futurity, and also won Champion Working 3yr Old. The final two progeny were the colts KIRKBYS STUD ADMIRAL in 2000 and KIRKBYS STUD MATRIX in 2001, sold as a yearling at Warwick.

This Foundation Mare was not only a champion at the top level but also proved to be a good pony club mount. When she retired from breeding she taught youngsters to ride. Both Ben Kirkby and a Kirkby grandson Nick Manchee, were her pupils. 'She was the perfect kids horse', said Sue.

From her eight progeny, five have bred on to create 1,170 descendants over some four generations to date. The family created by this Foundation Mare would now have to be considered one of the more successful and versatile families of the breed covering a wide range of disciplines from stockwork and campdrafting to dressage and showjumping. With their involvement in the Sydney 2000 Olympics and the Melbourne Cup, some have also contributed as iconic ambassadors of the breed. 🐾



KIRKBYS TONIC - IM HSH and Ben Kirkby competing at pony club in 2003.