



Foundation Mare

RADIETTE - FM HSH

ASH Reg: 86

What's in a name? Many horses are named to claim association with a noteworthy ancestor, but a similar name doesn't guarantee success. However, with this Foundation Mare's family of Australian Stock Horses there was a good link between the name and the level of performance.

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

The most noteworthy of the Australian Stock Horse heritage bloodlines is that of the horse Radium 02 - WH, and hence the name of this Foundation Mare. She takes her name from her sire Bignells Radiant 02 - WH, who takes his from his sire Radium 02 - WH. RADIETTE - FM HSH's role was limited to one of broodmare, a role which she filled well. With only five progeny she now has 543 descendants at last count, including a granddaughter KIMRIDGE AMANDA - FM HSH, who is a Foundation Mare herself.

This Foundation Mare is part of the horse story of Phillip Kirkby, a current Australian Stock Horse Society Director and

past-President. Phillip is also a renowned breeder of cattle, dogs and poultry, but here we will focus on the horse breeding only.

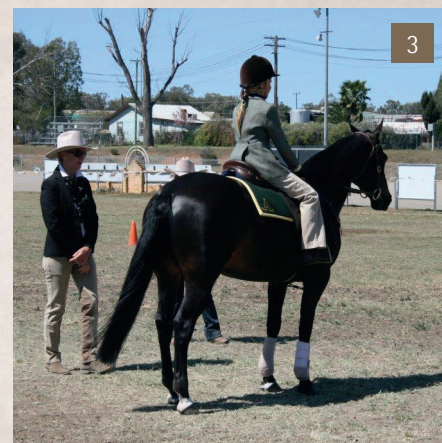
Phillip came from a big family where horses were part of their everyday life, both for work on the farm and for recreation. He acknowledges being the beneficiary of the good Australian Stock Horse bloodlines developed by his grandfather, father and uncles. Phillip explained, 'My grandfather, Will Kirkby, took up his original selection block at Moree, named Glen Prairie, in 1884. Together with his good mate, Rolly Monroe, he started the first campdraft in Moree in about the year 1900 which is claimed to be only the third campdraft held

in Australia. My grandfather had a lot of horses and since Bobbie Bruce 02 - WH's sire, Bruce 02 - WH, was in Moree for three years, he took quite a lot of mares to him. So he had quite a bit of Bruce 02 - WH blood in what was a good line of horses.'

Julie Latham, of Yuleba in Queensland, is a cousin of Phillip's who has carried on the Glen Prairie prefix. Their fathers, Arthur and Bill respectively, were close in age and were very involved in the horse breeding too. The two also speak about their Uncle Vic with great respect as he was a 'really good horseman'. Julie recalls it had been said that if he had been as good a cattleman as he was a horseman,



1. **RADIETTE - FM HSH** with **AL BURACK - HSH** as a foal in 1966. Photo supplied by: Phillip Kirkby
 2. **KIRKBYS STUD JULIETTE - HSH**. Photo supplied by: Phillip Kirkby
 3. **GLENBIRNIE DESITINY** ridden by Mariah Williams
 4. **KIRKBYS STUD BANJO** with Isabella Reardon at the Zone 8 Jamboree of 2014 winning the High Point Score for 11-13 yrs. Photo: Paul Smith Photography



- HSH, and **KIRKBYS WHITEY - HSH**, the dam of **KIRKBYS MERCURY - HSH**, who had ten foals including **KIRKBYS STUD WALLAROO - HSH** and **KIRKBYS STUD WARRIGAL - HSH**. Vic also bred Miss Radiant 02, the dam of **KIRKBYS COBALT - IS HSH**. The Kirkbys also used his son **QUICKSILVER - HSH** to produce four mares.

So there is the background to this Foundation Mare. Neither the Australian Stock Horse Stud Book nor the Australian Stud Book can provide further pedigree details on the dam's side. Nevertheless, we have an understanding of the quality of this family. 'The mare was a typical Stock Horse in type and stood about 15.1 hands high. She was quite a pretty, lovely-fronted mare', said Phillip.

'When my Uncle Vic was getting on in years he had a lot of well-bred horses that he was too old to do much with. **RADIETTE - FM HSH** was one of those horses and she had not been campdrafted. I talked him into lending me two good mares, **RADIETTE - FM HSH** and Miss Radiant 02,' said Phillip. 'I intended to breed these mares and when I told my uncle that I was going to put them to **ABBEY - FS HSH** he said, 'You're not

he would have made a fortune. Good blood horses were used in their breeding program and as a result, 'they bred some really smart station horses', said Julie.

RADIETTE - FM HSH's dam, Echos Sister 02, was one of the good outcomes of this family's collective breeding program. 'We are talking pre-World War II now. The mare Echo and her sibling, Echo's Sister 02 were good mares that won a lot of campdrafts over the war years' said Phillip.

The sire-line of this Foundation Mare's pedigree is also part of the Kirkby family story. Around 1950, the successful campdrafter, Alf Bignell moved from the Hunter Valley to Moree to open his butchers shop. He brought his horses with him so the grey stallion, Bignells Radiant 02 - WH became a resident of the north-west plains. Alf was very good mates with Carl Mitchell, the owner of the other top Radium 02 - WH horse of the day, Dimray 02 - WH, and so campaigned both horses. Alf Bignell on two Radium 02 - WH stallions; what a trio to compete against at a campdraft!

Bignells Radiant 02 - WH, needs little introduction to those familiar with the Australian Stock Horse breed. He was a horse that won 45 campdrafts including two World Championships at the Sydney Royal Easter Show. He is by Radium 02 - WH (by Cecil 02 - WH) out of Mac Whites Dawn 02 (a granddaughter of Saladin 001). His legacy has been passed on through a number of top quality progeny, despite only siring 18 horses that are listed in the Stud Book. Of those, only seven are registered but, four are Foundation Horses: **RADUX - FS HSH**, **RUMBELS ALMA - FM HSH**, **LADY RADIANT - FM HSH** and **RADIETTE - FM HSH**. He is also the sire of the stallion

QUICKSILVER - HSH and of Glamor 02, the dam of the sire, **REALITY - FS HSH**. There would have been many more of his progeny not in the Stud Book and the low number of recorded progeny is indicative of the lack of promotion of stallions in the days before the Society and its Stud Book and not indicative of his quality. Phillip reminded me that grey was a very desirable 'colour' in those days and that 'you would be flat out winning a ribbon if your horse was not grey.'

In about 1954, when the horse was about 20 years old and after his campdrafting was done, Vic Kirkby bought Bignells Radiant 02 - WH from Alf. 'Uncle Vic used him over their good mares to produce some great foundation stock which I have been fortunate to use', said Phillip. With him, Vic bred the grey mares **KIRKBYS TANGO - HSH**, the dam of **KIRKBYS PLUTONIUM**





5. KIRKBYS STUD BANJO with Jill Brown at the Australian Stock Horse Society Nationals in Albury, 2005
6. KIRKBYS DOUBLE RAY - HSH in 1973. Photo supplied by: Phillip Kirkby
7. Phillip Kirkby Australian Stock Horse Judge at Barastoc Horse of the Year Show 2011 in Victoria

going to put my good mares to that ugly, little stallion', to which I replied, 'Yes. I am. I think he is special.' So off I went down the range from Tamworth to the Comara Stud at Kempsey on what was known then as the Port Stephens Cutting on the most atrocious road, with the mares in a rattly old trailer. It was a horror trip, especially as I had not driven in mountainous country before.'

Phillip bred Miss Radiant 02 to ABBEY - FS HSH to get KIRKBYS COBALT - IS HSH. Phillip bred RADIETTE - FM HSH to get two foals and then sold the mare to Greg Stewart who registered her in his name and bred one

foal out of her. Greg then sold up and moved to Sydney, so had no need for the mare there and wanted to sell her. 'That was a good thing', said Phillip. 'I realised after I sold her that this mare was unique and I was able to buy her back at the same price. At that time I most often sold my horses as older broodmares or as unbroken two year olds'.

Her first foal, the 1965 chestnut filly KIRKBYS RADIATION - HSH, started the Foundation Mare off in good style. Phillip got four foals from the filly, before selling her to Helen Fordham at Narrabri. She was by QUICKSILVER - HSH, so carried a



double cross of Bignells Radiant 02 - WH.

One of her foals, the grey colt KIRKBYS HELIUM - HSH, by KIRKBYS COBALT - IS HSH, was sold to J & E Pendergast who produced a number of stock with his Penderscourt prefix. One of those from his first crop of foals found its way down to Victoria via a former President of the Australian Stock Horse Society, Alistair Irving. At that time, Peter Boddy from Woodside, Gippsland was just making a start in campdrafting. He purchased a 1977 filly by KIRKBYS HELIUM - HSH from Alistair named WARRIGAL CREEK CEILIDH - HSH. Peter said, 'I was looking for a horse that would help me get started in the sport. She was well-bred, quiet, and very cowy. When I campdrafted her she turned out to be a horse that travelled very well outside. From her we have bred five foals and one of those is the best mare I have campdrafted. CHERRILONG WARREGO, by our stallion BRONZE BRUCE, won seven open horse campdrafts in one year and took out the Gippsland Campdraft Championship Open Horse of the Year. We took her to Warwick in 2000. We bred a filly out of her and still have the mare, now aged 30'. CHERRILONG SWIVEL, a full sister to CHERRILONG WARREGO was also 'a ripper of a horse.' Peter and Jo Boddy have also bred a filly from CHERRILONG WARREGO.

A good filly out of KIRKBYS RADIATION - HSH was the bay KIRKBYS STUD JULIETTE - HSH, by WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS HSH. Her first foal, KIRKBYS STUD JULIE X - HSH came in 1986 by YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS HSH and competed in Western Australia. Phillip describes KIRKBYS RADIATION - HSH as 'a very clever mare' and bred another three foals from her before putting her forward at his dispersal sale at his 'Wave Hill' property near Narrabri.

Jill Brown from Delungra in northern New South Wales attended that sale, keen to buy a WARRENBRI ROMEO - IS HSH broodmare and considered herself fortunate to have bought KIRKBYS STUD JULIETTE - HSH given the strong competition. Jill said, 'She was beautiful, quiet and easy to do anything with'. The colt foal at foot, KIRKBYS STUD



BANJO, has now won and placed well at three National Championship Shows in 2005, 2006, 2007 and is currently being ridden in competition by Isabella Reardon. 'The mare also came with a free-return to ADIOS REFLECT - IS HSH, which produced a filly, GLENBIRNIE SAPHIRE - HSH and we also bred her again to ACRES DESTINY - IS', said Jill. 'The outcome was a pretty little mare, GLENBIRNIE DESTINY who has taken her young jockey, Mariah Williams, to the junior National Championships. We have bred three foals from her that have been quite successful in Australian Stock Horse classes to local and National events', she said.

The second foal of our Foundation Mare was a brown colt born in 1966, by ABBEY - FS HSH. Phillip said, 'I gave him to a friend of mine, Bruce Manchee at Moree. Bruce named him AL BURACK - HSH, after the horse that the prophet Mohammed is reported to have ridden to heaven'. Bruce bred with him a little and followed suite in the naming department with one foal being registered as RAMADAN. AL BURACK - HSH was sold a couple of times and was campdrafted by John Scholes who bred six foals by him. 'Bruce was not well at the time so he ended up with my cousin Julie Latham at Condamine who bred a lot of good polocrosse horses with him using the Glen Prairie prefix', said Phillip.

Julie explains, 'We got him from Bruce when he was a mature horse and had a breeding arrangement with him. 'Alby' was about 15 hands high and strongly built; not a pretty horse but one with a good temperament. You couldn't help but like him. He was very similarly bred to KIRKBYS COBALT - IS HSH'. He only paddock served, but was a real gentleman, getting them in foal; we had no time for horses that didn't behave in those days.' In all, AL BURACK - HSH produced 18 registered progeny for Glen Prairie, with 56 registered progeny in total, but many more than that were actually sired.

During her time as Secretary of the Maranoa Australian Stock Horse Society Branch, Julie used her position to champion the offering of Australian Stock Horse Society awards at polocrosse tournaments. 'Disappointingly, many polocrosse people don't register their horses so there are some wonderful Stock Horses out there that are eligible, but not registered', said Julie. One of her best foals was our GLEN PRAIRIE ABBALEEN - HSH, a very clever mare that my daughter, Tori played on representing Queensland at four consecutive National Polocrosse Championships from 1998 to 2004. 'She was fast and strongly built. She could play at number one (attack) or at number 3 (defence) with ease and won

RADIETTE - FM HSH

Colour: Bay **Height:** 15.1hh

Lifespan: 20 years approx (1956 - mid 1970's approx)

Breeder: Vic Kirkby, Moree, NSW

Performance: Stock Horse and broodmare

Progeny: Five registered progeny, the most notable being the stallion AL BURACK - HSH.



Sire	bignells radiant 02 - WH	radium 02 - WH	cecil 02 - WH
			black bess 03
		mac whites dawn 02	taylors saladine sire 02
Dam	echos sister 02		silver girl 02
		almost 001	unknown sire
			unknown damn
		secret 01	unknown sire
			unknown damn

hundreds of 'best horse' awards', said Julie. This good mare has produced four foals and now a granddaughter as well, so this polocrosse line continues. AL BURACK - HSH only had two colts that were Stud Book registered but one of those, GLENPRAIRIE ALL RAY - HSH produced twelve foals.

Another good foal out of this sire was bred by Doug Knapton of Murrurundi and registered as KIMRIDGE AMANDA - FM HSH. This mare was bred by Malcolm and Judy Field to ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET - FS HSH to produce four foals including the Impact Mare STRATHMUA SAPHIRE - IM HSH. With seven foals to her credit, she is the dam of OCEAN WAVE - HSH, OCEAN DEMISE - HSH and their brothers.

Phillip said, 'The third foal she had before I sold her was the 1970 grey colt KIRKBYS DOUBLE RAY - HSH, by KIRKBYS COBALT - IS HSH. He was a good looking, big colt and sold to Harold Willard as I recall, at the first Dubbo Australian Stock Horse Society sale'. It was a big weekend with Sinclair Hill, Theo Hill and other noted breeders there promoting the breed. Harold was a legend in the campdraft scene throughout the Hunter Valley. Some of his better known horses were Jack and Bruce. Phillip recalls, 'Harold owned a Bignells Radiant 02 - WH mare, LADY RADIANT - FM HSH, a campdrafter whom he rated as the best pick-up horse that he ever rode. He was obviously very keen on the bloodline.'

His daughter, Heather Mitchell, explained that she and her husband Maurice were also part-owners of the horse. 'We bought him as a sire but only used him to breed a couple of horses', she said. One of those was the bay colt NYAKKIE who sired 12 progeny. Harold and the Mitchells sold KIRKBYS DOUBLE RAY - HSH to Glenrock

station in the Hunter Valley where he sired over 53 progeny. In 1977, this Journal reported on the Glenrock Station reduction sale where the 25 head sold for an average of \$1,011. A number of horses by KIRKBYS DOUBLE RAY - HSH were sold there and the stallion himself was offered but was passed in at \$4,100. Phillip believes that he died at the station in an accident.

The colt foal that Greg Stewart bred in 1972 was registered as BRAYLEIGH ZINC - HSH and was gelded. Her final foal was a bay filly born after she came back to the Kirkby's stud and was registered as KIRKBYS RADIETT II - HSH. Phillip bred her twice to sires of Radium 02 - WH blood then sold her to Mrs. Win Dorse for whom Harold Willard used to ride. She produced another two offspring for Mrs. Dorse. One of these, the mare KIRKBYS ZIRCON - HSH, has been used by Karen Miles for breeding, with two progeny carrying the Cee Dee prefix.

Phillip recalls that he kept the Foundation Mare after she stopped breeding, until she eventually passed away. Left behind were her descendants that performed well and were well sought after. Like her, they have kept the good name of Radium 02 - WH in high standing.

Will Kirkby who is four generations back in the current Kirkby family lineage would no doubt be interested that his line of horses have now descended five generations from RADIETTE - FM HSH. As the man mainly responsible for the Kirkby and Glen Prairie foundation bloodlines, he would be looking down proudly on the way that 'his' line of horses have developed and how they now form part of the elite group of horses known as Foundation Horses of the Australian Stock Horse breed. 🇦🇺