

## Foundation Sire

# SCRUMLO URANIUM – FS ASH Reg: 10008

*This stallion is in good company. Scrumlo has produced two Foundation Sires, four Foundation Mares, an Impact Sire, an Impact Mare and a Taproot Mare.*

Anyone who has cast their eyes over pedigrees of the early Hunter Valley bred Stock Horses will have noticed the Scrumlo prefix. This classic Hunter Valley cattle property is unique in name and memorable because of its significant impact upon the Stock Horse breed. This is a record that will stand unchallenged, as the definition of Foundation and Impact status restricts this designation to horses registered within the first ten years of the formation of the Society in 1971.

SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS, a dun colt born in 1964, has produced 1,055 descendants (2007 figures) including a number of outstanding horses. Forty six years on, we are seeing no less than the eighth generation of descendants. He sired such greats as SCRUMLO DORITA - an extraordinary broodmare for Ros Waller's Ophir stud and was grandsire to the stallion BULLENBONG WIRIKI.

A decade ago this Journal, in a number of articles, recorded the history of the Scrumlo horses - the property, the family and the people that produced them. ("The Scrumlo Influence", March/April 1999). In brief, the Mackay family and their descendants have held this large property near Aberdeen since the 1860's. The current family holding of some 8,000 ha (20,000 ac) is owned and managed by the four Lee-Warner brothers who are grandchildren of a Mackay.

In those articles, Joy Poole wrote that "the golden era of the Scrumlo horses can probably be traced back to an event that occurred in 1929." This was the moving of Mr Griffith (Senior) and his son, Bert Griffith from Branga Plains at Walcha to Scrumlo. They took two horses with them, both mares, one of which was Branga Prudence. She was "to be the foundation of the Scrumlo horses for seventy years plus". Not long after arriving, Bert was promoted from stockman to manager of Scrumlo. As a horse breeder, he partnered well with his employee Allan Ward, breaker and master-trainer of horses. "For almost three decades this great combination of Allan Ward and Bert Griffiths worked together helping to build the Scrumlo story". Many of the well-known horsemen of the time worked there with them.

Dan Lee-Warner Snr joined the family through marriage to Ann Walker in 1950, whose mother was a Mackay. He moved to



*SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS by Yellow Rock, held by Nelson Clifford who was originally a drover from the Hunter Valley*



Scrumlo in 1956. Today his son, Hamish Lee-Warner, is in charge of the Scrumlo prefix, while two other brothers work under different stud prefixes – namely, Mac with Bydand and Dan (junior) with Mullee.

“When the Australian Stock Horse Society started classifying in 1971, Scrumlo presented 15 horses for classification that then carried the registered numbers 51 through to 65. In the first five years of the Australian Stock Horse Society, 30 mares were registered from Scrumlo”, writes Joy.

Hamish stated that the biggest influence on the Scrumlo horses was Bobbie Bruce – an Australian Stock Horse Society Taproot Sire that many say had the biggest bearing on the whole breed. SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS was by him and having 2,242 descendants, is arguably the most significant horse that Scrumlo produced. The other Foundation horses were SCRUMLO NITA - FM, SCRUMLO VICTORIA - FM, SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM, and SCRUMLO MYSTERY - FM. Lets also include here the Impact Mare, RAYS GIFT - IM. With the exception of SCRUMLO MYSTERY - FM, these mares trace back to the unregistered ‘foundation’ mare, Branga Prudence. SCRUMLO VICTORY - IS completes the set of Scrumlo horses listed in the breed’s Hall of Fame.

Against this backdrop of family greatness, SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS holds his head high, being one of only two Foundation Sires in the studbook out of a Foundation Mare.

In recent correspondence, Hamish Lee-Warner recalls, “I was only young but I remember that he was solidly built and stood about 15.2hh. He was a bit snorty, bad-tempered and lived at Mullee in Mickey’s Gully. He was broken in by Ross Snowden of Scone, the father of the current Darley thoroughbred stud horse trainer, Peter Snowden. He was used for stockwork for a bit but was difficult to ride as he could buck – so he spent his life as a sire, producing great progeny.”

As would be expected, with a working horse property standing a number of sires, many horses are related to one another and

breeding decisions must be made carefully. In the case of this Foundation Sire, the breeding selection was well made.

The Scrumlo sire Yellow Rock was chosen. He was a creamy stallion that sired only twelve studbook-recorded offspring. The caption on the photo of Yellow Rock reads, “A wonderful stock horse, no day was too hard for him, excellent temperament.” Yellow Rock’s sire, Coopla Billy was by a Saladin colt. The history of the respected Saladin bloodline is recorded in the breed’s Hall of Fame, under “Horses of Historical Significance”. This Saladin influence explains not only the colour and toughness of the bloodline, but also the ability to buck.

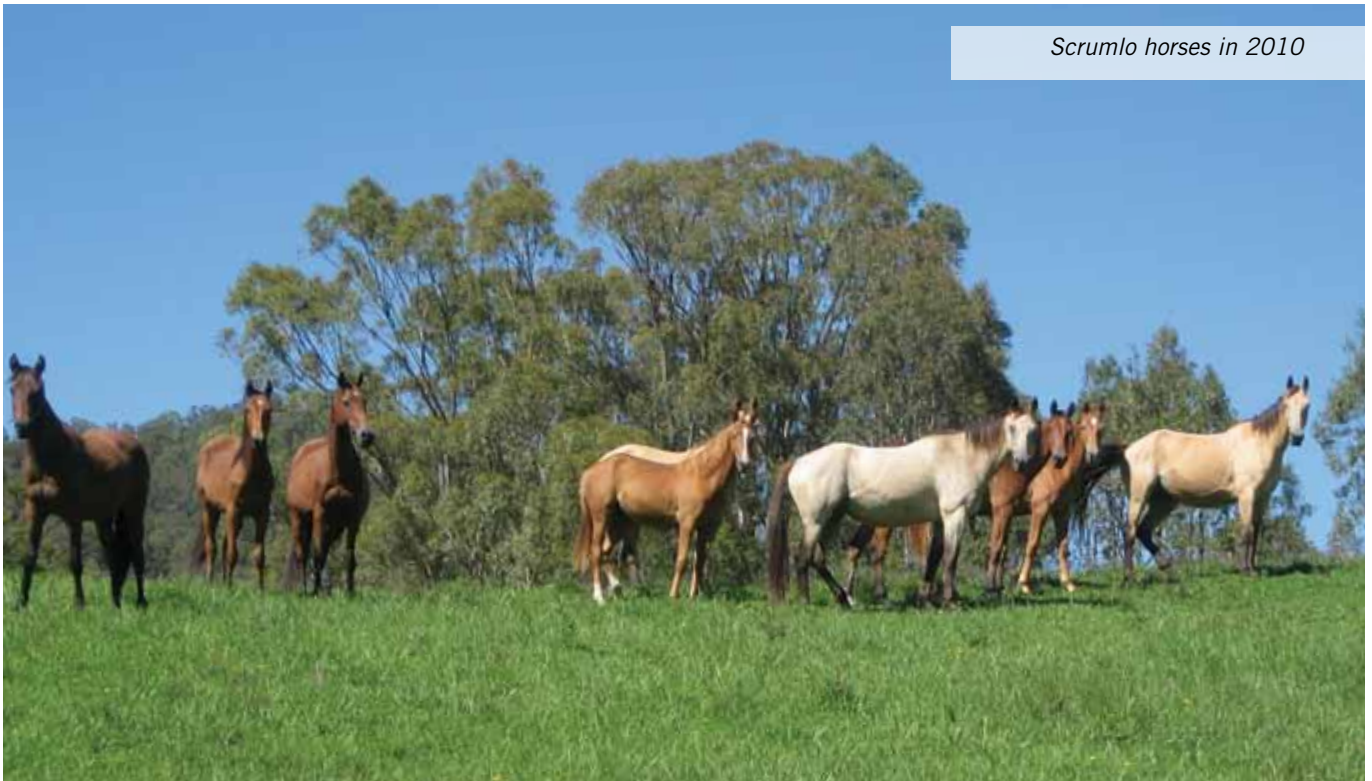
Another significant Scrumlo horse by Yellow Rock was the filly RAYS GIFT - IM, the third foal out of SCRUMLO NITA - FM, who shares the grand-dam, Branga Prudence, with SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS.

The dam of SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS is SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM - one the Society’s first registered horses, carrying the number #51. Her Foundation Mare story (Australian Stock Horse Society Journal May/June 1999) quotes Allan Ward describing her as “the greatest campdraft mare I ever rode, but unfortunately she was injured before she could reach her full potential.” At her first start at Gresford, Allan rode her to win the Maiden Campdraft. His second run was at Moonan with Ian McCallum on board, where she finished second.

With 942 descendants, her first foal and only Foundation or Impact offspring, is SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS. She was out of the thoroughbred racehorse, Gay Dawn, who was by My Bruce out of Scrumlo’s earliest mare, Branga Prudence. On the sire’s side, SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM was by a Radium son, Tinagroo Skibo Radium. He sired ten foals, eight for Scrumlo, including another Foundation Mare SCRUMLO MYSTERY - FM, the dam of RED BRUCE.

SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM produced a number of working mares and geldings but her final foal, a 1976 colt named CROFTON OLIVER, was sold to John Brooker at a Scone





sale for \$2,500. He was later purchased back and was still in use at Scrumlo as a sire in 1999, producing 27 foals in all.

The making of a foundation horse often depends on just a couple of progeny that reach the spotlight. So it is with SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM, who is mostly known for the breeding performance of her first and her last son.

SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS started as a sire in 1968 at the age of four and continued until 1990. He was used most years although there were two other stallions standing on the property at the same time. Of his 33 recorded progeny, nine progressed no further than foal-recording stage, four were unregistered and twenty became studbook registered. Of those twenty, most were mares or geldings. Some were retained by Scrumlo and some were transferred to J & F (Mac) Lee-Warner who has bred foals with them bearing the Bydand prefix.

This foundation sire was a dun, which we now know as buckskin. The studbook has him erroneously recorded as a bay. His genetics included the 'cream' gene allowing him to produce a kaleidoscope of colour in his offspring. Of the 29 of his 33 progeny that were coat-colour recorded, not surprisingly, 52% inherited 'cream'. They include 7 (21%) creamy with white mane and tail (palomino), eight (28%) dun (buckskin) and one (3%) pseudo-albino.

Scrumlo has continued using his descendants for stockwork and for competition. The youngest generation of the Lee-Warner family uses these horses to compete in pony club, campdrafting, sporting and show-jumping disciplines.

One SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS daughter, SCRUMLO MAGI, has a palomino grand-daughter, MERLIN EUREKA, which was placed ninth at the 2009 Maiden Campdraft final at the National Championships at Scone, ridden by David Andrews. Another horse, MULLEE CONNIE, a daughter of the SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS mare SCRUMLO BONITA, placed in the 2009 Scone Maiden Series Round 2 for Dan Lee-Warner.

A limited number of SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS horses were sold outside the family and Ross Clarke of Baradine ended up with a few of them. He was given some horses to campaign and also bred some foals from these mares.

An interesting mare by SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS is OUR BUTTONS, a pseudo-albino. 'White' in colour with light blue eyes, she was a 1970 foal out of the dun dam, WYBOS BONNIE. After being sold to Queensland and then back to Enid Clark in the Hunter Valley, she was ultimately owned by Neil Ward of the Award stud at Chiltern in Victoria. She had seven foals – all palominos or duns, but none of these has produced registered stock to date. Her colour has been no impediment to her except that the climate of Victoria suits her better than that of both Queensland and New South Wales.

Allan's description of the last of her foals, the dun mare AWARD MAGENTA, indicates that it is more than just the colour genetics that have been passed down the ancestral bloodline from Saladin, which she has on both sides of her pedigree. "She is about 14.3hh and tough. She has won some drafts, is broken to harness and is the sort of horse that anyone can ride. We used her as a pack horse when we travelled 600km across the Great Dividing Range from Chiltern to the coast", said Allan.

SCRUMLO DORITA was perhaps his best daughter, certainly in terms of breeding. Born in 1973 she was purchased in 1975 by Ros and Albert Waller at the same time that they purchased the colt SCRUMLO VICTORY - IS. She had an incredible breeding career producing 21 foals for the Ophir stud between 1977 and 1998. A dun in colour, she passed the creamy gene on to a number of her progeny, with half of them being either dun or palomino. The quality of her offspring was outstanding, with many winning at Champion level in Royals across Australia in all Stock Horse disciplines and open campdrafts (see Australian Stock Horse Society Journal Sept/Oct. 1999). Her 1996 colt OPHIR LEGEND is stood at stud by Ros' daughter and son-in-law, the de Jongs. OPHIR REFLEX is a stallion by YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS out of SCRUMLO DORITA's daughter OPHIR



SCRUMLO DORITA with owner Ros Waller

TAMMY, and is one of that stud's resident stallions having produced some 86 offspring to date.

SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS sired three unregistered colts that are recorded in the studbook. Uranium Colt was used by Bydand to produce a "first Cross" foal out of a registered mare. The two other unregistered colts were Raydella Searchlight and Searchlight (possibly the same horse). Mr RJ Hall bred with them producing six foals and one foal respectively. The six foals (all mares) by Raydella Searchlight have since gained entry to the studbook as "Special Merit" horses.

Such entries of 'Special Merit' and 'Cross' status, show the value of the current studbook rules, by allowing entry to horses with recognized bloodlines, which were otherwise not registerable.

With the exception of SCRUMLO DORITA, most of the SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS descendants have come from his registered colts. The earliest of these was the palomino SCRUMLO CHROMIUM born in 1969. About him, "the Scrumlo horse book comments: 'good sort of foal and quiet'. At an early age he was sold at the Australian Stock Horse Sale at Scone for \$1,025." He sired forty offspring between 1973 and 1982, which were registered under different stud prefixes - 63% being palominos or duns. Of his fourteen registered progeny, the biggest influence has come through the dun stallion BULLENBONG WIRIKI, bought by the late Mike Donelan. After winning the Working Stock Horse Class at the Melbourne Royal in 1977 he went on to sire 110 offspring, with nearly all progeny having the Bullenbong prefix. This bloodline includes the great-grandson BULLENBONG YELLA FELLA used by the Glee Lee ASH stud and a great, great-grandson, MISTER HYDE that is making a name for himself today.

He produced two other dun colts used as sires by Scrumlo, SCRUMLO STRONTIUM born in 1971 and SCRUMLO LAWRENCE, born in 1981 out of SCRUMLO VICTORIA - FM.

This Foundation Sire did not stand to outside mares and was not the focus of attention on his property, as there were also other stallions standing. He therefore was not a prolific sire in terms of numbers, making the achievement of his Foundation status even more impressive. The progeny he produced were valued for their working ability and some key ones found their way into the hands of other horsemen where their versatility has been demonstrated. The tough, creamy horses of his line have proven themselves and, generations later, are still making an impact on the breed. 🇦🇺

**Profile: SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS**

**Colour** Dun  
**Height** 15.2 Hands  
**Lifespan** 26 years (1964-1990)  
**Breeder** Dan Lee-Warner (Snr), Scrumlo, NSW  
**Performance** Station horse – did not compete  
**Progeny** 33. Most notable being the mare SCRUMLO DORITA and the sire SCRUMLO CHROMIUM.

<b>SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS ASH Reg: 10008</b>	Yellow Rock	Coopla Billy	Saladin Colt
		Lilyveil Mare	Cooplacurripa Station Mare
	SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM	Tinagroo Skibo Radium	Lilyveil
		Gay Dawn	Unknown Dam
			Radium
			Perfect
		My Bruce	
		Branga Prudence	