Foundation Mare
SCRUMLO RITA – FM HSH

ASH Reg: 58

This article is one of many that have been written about the horses of Scrumlo Station, as this property is the origin of many significant horses of the Stock Horse breed. It has produced two Foundation Sires, five Foundation Mares, an Impact Sire and two Impact Mares. This is a record only challenged by Glengarry Station, as the definition of Foundation and Impact status restricts these designations to horses registered within the first ten years of the formation of the Society in 1971.

Article by Lindsay Ferguson

In 1999 this journal carried a number of articles written by Joy Poole, who recorded the history of the Scrumlo horses – the property, the family and the people that produced them. ("The Scrumlo Influence", March/April 1999). She wrote, 'When the ASHS 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 ASHS, 30 mares were registered from Scrumlo'. SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH, a palomino in colour, was born in 1960 and was one of those first registrations (#58) with 671 descendants to date.

In brief, the Scrumlo story is one of the Mackay family and their descendants who have held this large property near Aberdeen in New South Wales since the 1860's. It had an area of some 70-100,000 acres, so with the horse being the only means of transport in early days, it is no wonder that so many stock horses were bred for work purposes. Even locally, this property was thought of as enormous with more than a dozen families working on the place. Many of the well-known Hunter Valley horsemen

of the time worked there. Each of the stockmen had three to six horses that were virtually their own while they worked there. Being hilly country, the horses needed to be able handle the steep, and sometimes slippery, conditions and consequently their horses ranged from about 14 to 15 hands in height. The current family holding of some 8,000 ha (20,000 ac) is owned and managed by the Lee-Warner brothers who are the grandchildren of a Mackay.

Scrumlo kept most of its fillies and always had two or three stallions for breeding. They would breed about 12-15 mares per year, bringing them in each August for a drench and for gelding. The mare Branga Prudence 02 was the main horse from which the others have descended. Scrumlo is different from other properties in the region in that it was the source of many of the 'creamies' of the breed. The 'cream' gene has resulted in a wide range of colours in the 671 descendants. In the early days of the Society, many horses of this colour were registered as palominos, as the colour option for buckskin was not available on the registration forms.

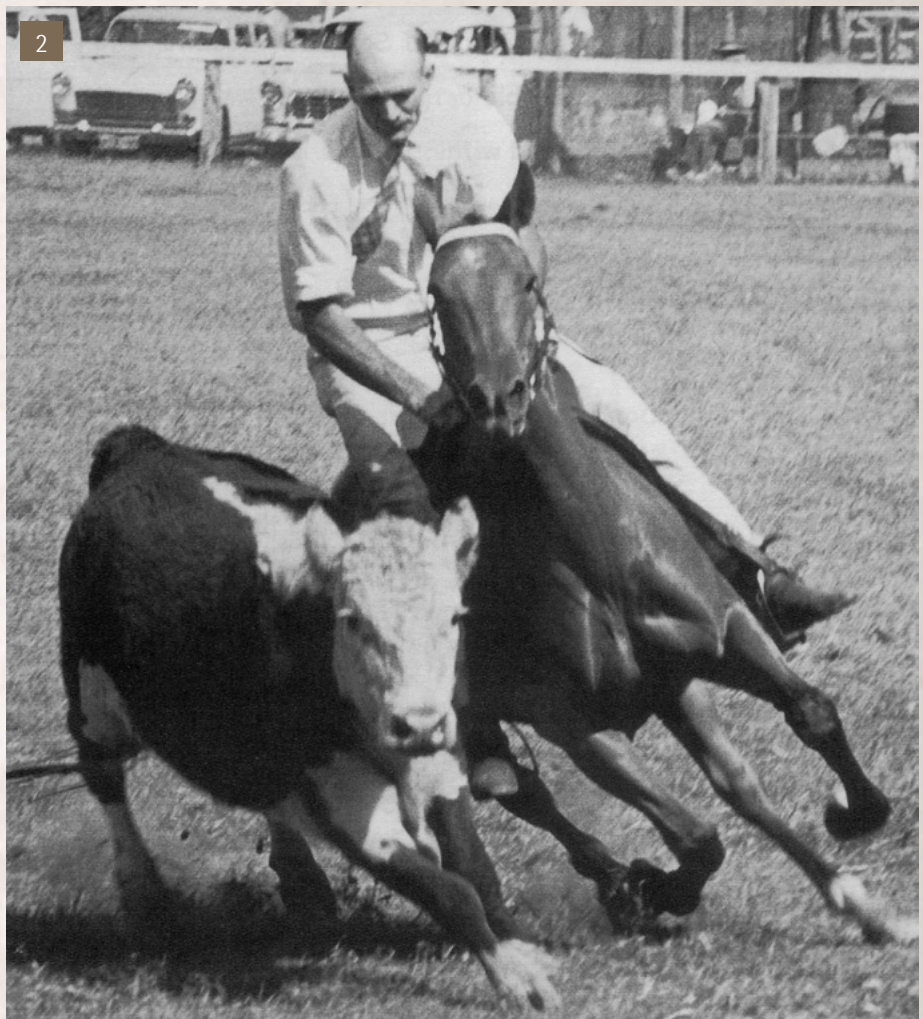SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH was by the stallion Tranquil 02, who

stood at Scrumlo for two or three years. Brian Brooker from Upper Rouchel near Aberdeen, is a foundation member and stalwart of the Society, who knew a number of these early horses. Brian bred using the Brooklyn and Main Camp prefixes and knew Tranquil 02 as he too, bred mares to him. 'He was a good-sized, bay horse standing about 15.2hh', recalls Brian. 'He had a good temperament and I was happy with his progeny.' Brian bred the stallion BROOKLYN GIFT - HSH and the filly BROOKLYN NIECE - HSH, the latter who had two colts with 90 progeny between them. Tranquil 02 has just eight progeny registered in the studbook and it is only these four and the mare Signet 05 that have bred on. Roslyn Waller, of the Ophir stud, had the benefit of the mare OPHIR JOYETTA - HSH who is a cross of these two Brooklyn horses and has produced 19 progeny.

George McMullen bred Tranquil 02, who was sired by the Hunter Valley horse, Serene 03 - WH who was bred at Giro station. He was by Cecil 02 -WH, a cornerstone horse of the breed and out of The Blanche 02, a polo mare who was a granddaughter of the Thoroughbred stallion, Goldsborough 02.

Serene 03 - WH had a number of other names including the Branch Creek horse. Kenneth MacCallum, a successful campdrafter and local from Moonan Flat near Scone, explained that in the early 1900s, his grandfather and the Gunter family, from Branch Creek in the headwaters of the Hunter River, jointly owned Serene 03 - WH. 'He was a big plain horse. My grandfather had two good horses by him, but they were never campdrafted', said Ken. 'He was sold to Belltrees station where they called him Wildfire and stood him for many years'. Alec Wiseman the long-time manager at Belltrees once quipped to Raymond Merrick, the breaker there from the late 1950's, 'You should ride him – he is so light you could ride him over a setting of eggs and he wouldn't crack an eggshell.' Ray recalls that Alec had a very good mare by him named Twinkle by him. As a youngster, Ken remembers seeing Alec ride this mare in a campdraft pattern with no bridle, using only the judges whip for control.

This stallion's name is also found in the pedigree of two other Scrumlo Foundation Horses as the sire of the mare Flame 02, who was a successful campdrafter for Bert Griffith of Scrumlo. Flame is the dam of both SCRUMLO VICTORIA - FM HSH and SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS HSH. By the popular stallion Bobbie Bruce 02 - WH, these two full siblings are grandparents to a number of Warwick Gold Cup campdraft winners and placegetters as well as some Canning Downs placegetters.

Belltrees station eventually sold Serene

1. Scrumlo horses in 2010 on Scrumlo Station.
2. SCRUMLO BRANGA PRUDENCE - FM HSH

03 - WH through the Scone sale where George McMullen bought him for 40 pounds. It was George who named him Serene 03 - WH. 'He was an old horse then but George managed to get a few years out of him. He got a lot of good horses', said Brian.

Tranquil 02's dam was Brown Legs 02 who was by the stallion Harvat 001. 'This stallion was by the Thoroughbred stallion Vat and was used a fair bit around the district', said Brian.

SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH's dam was the mare Helen 02, who was by Alladin 02 out of Australian Star Mare 02. Helen 02 was also the dam of SCRUMLO ROSE, a bay mare who had six foals. They too came in a range of colours including palomino, chestnut, grey, dun and bay. They were also good breeders with some of her fillies having four foals and SCRUMLO ROSETTE having 13 foals.

Unfortunately, the current Lee-Warner family of Scrumlo, recalls very little of this particular family of horses. Hamish Lee-Warner said that, 'SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH was a big buckskin mare – but before my time'. Ray Merrick remembers her. He said, 'she had a good nature and was Dan

Lee-Warner's main working horse. His wife also used to ride her. She was a big, plain mare about 15.1 hands high with black mane and tail. She had a flat forehead and a full eye, which we liked. She was a bit pigeon-toed and you had to know how to shoe her properly, but that fault made us sure she would never fall over. She was a big, roomy, useful station mare – a good working horse. She was a good walker, good on the hills and could cut a beast out – but she never went to a campdraft.'

SCRUMLO NITA - FM HSH is also by Tranquil 02. This mare produced well but was also pigeon-toed. This came from her granddam Branga Prudence 02 who had crooked front legs, but was still fast on the bush racetracks and a top campdrafter. It is understood that they were both beautiful mares, but troubled by bad legs. Despite this, SCRUMLO NITA - FM HSH was exceptionally good working in the bush. Ken MacCallum's father, Ian, and other riders campdrafted them with success. She produced well and Ken recalls a great gelding out of her by Bobbie Bruce 02 - WH that he campdrafted, who unfortunately broke a

3. SCRUMLO DORITA - IM HSH has an outstanding number of progeny.
4. SCRUMLO NITA - FM HSH, also by Tranquil 02.
5. SCRUMLO DORITA - IM HSH with Ros Waller. Photo: Supplied by Ros Waller.
6. The Lee-Warners on Scrumlo Horses in 2010. Photo: Supplied by Hamish Lee-Warner.

hind leg while young. SCRUMLO NITA - FM HSH's story is found in page 22, Australian Stock Horse Journal March/April 1999.

SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH was a good and productive brood mare, having eight foals to her credit. Six of these were registered and all but one was a filly. Amassing the required number of descendants to achieve Foundation status through the female line, rather than through a couple of successful sire sons, is more difficult to achieve and testament to the fact that the mares' owners valued the bloodline. A couple of these have turned out to be brood mares of distinction and have helped to elevate this family to Foundation status, like their cousins from some of the other Scrumlo Foundation Horses.

Most of these foals were by the sire SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS HSH, giving them a double-cross of Serene. SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS HSH was a bit over 15.2 hands in height – a smart horse of stocky build. Ken MacCallum recalls that his progeny were 'long horses in type, mostly about 15.1 to 15.2 hh.' Most of SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH's progeny were used for stock work and breeding by Scrumlo station; however, some of them were sold.

SCRUMLO MERITA - HSH was her first foal born in 1967 and SCRUMLO CHARITA - HSH, born in 1969, were both SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS HSH's progeny and each produced three foals, with their stallion NABINABAH GUNMAN - HSH often being used as the sire.

SCRUMLO PICCOLO - HSH was a 1970 dun gelding by SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS HSH that was sold to the bloodstock agent Frederick Rose who would most likely have sold him on.

Her other two fillies were also sold to outsiders. SCRUMLO RACHAEL - HSH, also by SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS HSH, was born in 1968 and is associated with the Hunter Valley horseman, Kenneth Brown. Ray Merrick remembers breaking her in, 'and then she was sold'. Ken did not know the previous owner but bought her at an ordinary horse sale at Dubbo in about 1973 for $1000. 'She was a bay mare standing at about 15hh, of Scrumlo build and looked a nice type', said Ken. To Ken's surprise she was in foal when he bought her and she went on to have ten foals in total. This first one was the filly KOANOR - HSH who was sold. Ken's daughter Barbara then did a lot of work with the mare, showing and campdrafting her with success. Many of these were by Ken's stallions BROWN MY WAY - IS HSH or BROWN HIGHWAY - HSH. The colt BROWN EXPO - HSH won his first Futurity while still a colt, ridden by Allan Young. The colt BROWN SANTAWAY - HSH was another good one.

BROWN PEBBLES - HSH, by BROWN HIGHWAY - HSH, was another of her progeny. Brett Holz broke her in and started her in an Australian Stock Horse Futurity at Condobolin. She was too sick to perform well on the day; however, did sufficiently well to prove her potential. Brett said that, 'she was very crook at Condobolin. She ended up as a good horse that anyone could ride'. Ken MacCallum took her on as a four year old and campdrafted her for Ken Brown. 'I knew that she was special. She won 20 campdrafts (15 opens, 2 ladies, 1 restricted and 2 novices) and in 2003 won the open at the Australian ABCRA championships', said Ken. 'In that year she also competed at Warwick. She has two foals soon to be registered - a DOGWOOD COMET - IS HSH filly and a WARRENBRI CLANCY - HSH filly, who are both very promising', he said.

SCRUMLO SUMMER BRUCE - HSH, a 1972 bay mare by SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT - FS HSH was sold and produced five foals. The first of these was WINDRA SUMMET

SCRUMLO RITA - FM HSH

Colour: Buckskin (registered as Palomino).
Height: 15hh approx.
Lifespan: 30 years approx. (1950 – 1980 approx.)
Breeder: Scrumlo Station, Aberdeen, NSW.
Performance: Stock horse and broodmare.
Progeny: Eight progeny, the most notable being the mares SCRUMLO RACHAEL - HSH and SCRUMLO DORITA - HSH.

Aberdeen, NSW ●

Sire	tranquil 02	serene 03 - WH	cecil 02 - WH
			the blanch 02
		brown legs 02	harvat 001
			brown mare 01
Dam	helen 02	alladin 02	ginger 001
			-
		australian star mare 02	australian star 001
			-

-HSH an ELIOTTS CREEK CADET - FS HSH colt bred by the Bruntons. This colt sired 24 progeny for W Blacker's Kanoona stud and for the Throwers Creek stud. Mr W Blacker bred three other Kanoona prefixed progeny with the fourth and last foal in 1992 being registered as WILJOHN RITA.

SCRUMLO DORITA - IM HSH by SCRUMLO URANIUM - FS HSH was perhaps the best daughter of both her sire and dam, certainly in terms of her breeding ability. She has become well known in the breed due to her amazing number of progeny, which we see is a family trait. She was born in 1973 and purchased from Scrumlo in April 1976 by Ros and Albert Waller at the same time that they purchased the colt SCRUMLO VICTORY - IS HSH. She went to a few campdrafts but Albert had put her in foal early and as it was around the time of his passing she stayed as a brood mare. Her incredible breeding career produced 20 foals for the Ophir stud between 1977 and 1998. In fact she gave birth to 21 foals, but one fell into a wombat hole at a few months of age. Buckskin in colour, she passed the creamy gene on to a number of her progeny.

The quality of her offspring was outstanding, with many winning at Championship level in Royals across Australia in all Stock Horse disciplines and open campdrafts (see Australian Stock Horse Journal Sept/Oct. 1999). Her 1996 colt OPHIR LEGEND - HSH is stood at stud by Ros' daughter and son-in-law's, the De Jong's, who now run the Ophir stud. OPHIR REFLEX - HSH who died a few years ago, was a stallion by YALLATUP RIVOLI REX - IS HSH out of SCRUMLO DORITA - IM HSH's daughter OPHIR TAMMY - HSH, and was one of that stud's resident stallions with 109 progeny. SCRUMLO DORITA - IM HSH's 1989 foal, OPHIR RITA - HSH, a buckskin filly, was a namesake of her

granddam and has since had six foals.

This article completes the currently listed Foundation Horses from Scrumlo. With so many registrations in the early days of the Society and with such a depth of breeding of horses selected and bred based on their working ability, we may yet see more arise as their numbers of descendants increase. ⬧