

Foundation Mare

Story by Joy Poole (OAM)

TARA - FM

ASH Reg: 3563

"Dad rang me for my 21st birthday," said Maxine Brooks, "when I was in Sydney competing at the Royal Show and told me that he was giving me TARA - FM as a 21st birthday present. Dad knew how much I loved her when I started to ride her."

Little did Ventry McLennan or his daughter, Maxine, know at that time the great influence this mare would have on a Society which at that stage was just about to get started. TARA - FM was named after the Queensland town of Tara, the district where she was born in 1968.

Ventry McLennan was a renowned horseman who bought, bred, sold, kept and showed a string of quality horses over a long period of time so it was only natural that his children followed in his footsteps and were very astute horse people.

"My brother, Stuart and his wife Nita, had gone to Tara (Queensland) to work in that district," continued Maxine "and they were to visit Frank Wormwell's property, Werringa Downs, Meandarra."

The Wormwells were serious horse people who competed in campdrafts and bred good horses.

"Stuart rang Dad to tell him that he knew where he could purchase a truckload of well bred horses with many of them carrying the Young Valais bloodline which we had great success with," said Maxine.

The Young Valais bloodline was coming from a horse called Sensation that the Wormwells had purchased from the Haydon Family of Blandford in the Hunter Valley in NSW. The McLennans had also purchased horses from Fred Haydon in the past and knew the quality of their stock.

Stuart was to send down two truckloads of horses over time from Wormwells and TARA - FM was in the first load that arrived. "There wasn't a dud horse in them", said Maxine, "they were all good horses."

"TARA - FM was just under 15.3 hands," continued Maxine, "and was a lovely type of grey mare that always caught the judge's eye in any discipline. Being so light and agile on her feet gave her the most beautiful floating movement over any type of terrain making her a pleasure to ride. I attended a Doug Green Equestrian School at Moree when she was only two years old and here she also showed she could jump. In 1994 when I was doing my EFA Level 1 Coaching I needed a horse that could jump and I had TARA's - FM daughter YARRANOO MINTARA and she proved that she could also jump."

"When I became pregnant and wasn't riding, Dad took over and was always complaining that TARA - FM was too quick and light for him. However, one day when he was out mustering, after very heavy rain, he was caught in boggy conditions. He wasn't able to dismount as it was too boggy so he put his trust in the mare to get him out. At times she was down to her belly and Dad was a big man but she travelled over quite a distance through these conditions to get him to firm ground. After that Dad always spoke very highly of her stamina."

TARA - FM was to carry Maxine to many Champion Rider awards, Champion Hacks and Working class wins. She had also started to have some success campdrafting. TARA - FM showed exceptional cattle sense even as a very young mare so Maxine's plan was to take her to Warwick in 1975. At the time Ventry had a young

TARA - FM ASH Reg: 3563	Sensation	Young Valais	Madagascar
			Princess Cadena
	Unknown Dam	Starlight Mare	

colt that would be registered as STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS. Some yard gates were left not properly shut and STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS was able to find his way to TARA's - FM paddock.

"Obviously we didn't want TARA - FM in foal so we gave her an injection to abort the foal," said Maxine, "but fortunately the injection didn't work and TARA - FM had her first foal which was the outstanding performer and sire, SILVER MINSTREL born in 1975."

"We sold him to Colin Dobbin from Maclean as a yearling. He came back to me as a two year old to be broken-in before being campaigned by Ian Dobbin. He won led, hack, working and also western pleasure classes with him. The Dobbins then leased SILVER MINSTREL to the Vary Family at River View Stud."

Roy Vary became the new rider and had tremendous success with him. He competed in Stock Horse events and campdrafted him. However, from the Varys' point of view probably the most important thing he did was sire their great broodmare, RIVER VIEW TOPSEY. This mare has produced the Champions, RIVERVIEW SNOWY winner of the Warwick Gold Cup, RIVER VIEW SNOWETTE winner of the Maiden Series Campdraft in



TARA - FM after the 1975 Grafton Show, which was her last show

2007, RIVER VIEW LIGHTNING, Champion Working Mare Toowoomba Royal, RIVERVIEW TOPFIRE, the Cloncurry Stockman's Challenge winner and the Reserve Champion Working in Sydney in 2007, RIVERVIEW SNOWMAN.

Later SILVER MINSTREL was leased to Bruce Birney who also competed successfully with him. Unfortunately when he was returned to the Dobbin Family he died shortly after. This was a great loss as his progeny were really performing very well and his broodmares as mentioned have been outstanding.

"As I had several horses in work," said Maxine, "I decided to continue to use TARA - FM as a broodmare rather than returning her to the showing. I chose to send her to a horse called TENERIFFE VENTRY that Dad had bred but was now owned by Keith Smith of Glen Elgin. The reason I did not send her to STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS was that my brother, Stuart, had taken him to his property in Queensland to use with his mares."

The result of this mating was YARRANOO PIVOT born in 1976 who was sold to Peter and Carmel Manchee of Moree. This mare proved a great campdraft mare winning many campdrafts and cut outs until she lost the sight in one eye. She was retired to stud where she proved just as successful producing five foals including the successful sire AHWAHNEE CONDOR (28 foals) the sire of National Champion Polocrosse Mare, DOONDI SAPPHIRE.

TARA's - FM 1978 foal was YARRANOO SO TRIM by VOLSUNG. Injured as a foal this mare was sold to the Dobbin Family as a broodmare and produced the successful show mare WOODBRIDGE GAZELLE shown by Peter Jelliff in Victoria.

The 1980 foal YARRANOO FLAIR by SWIFT APOLLO was born five weeks premature.

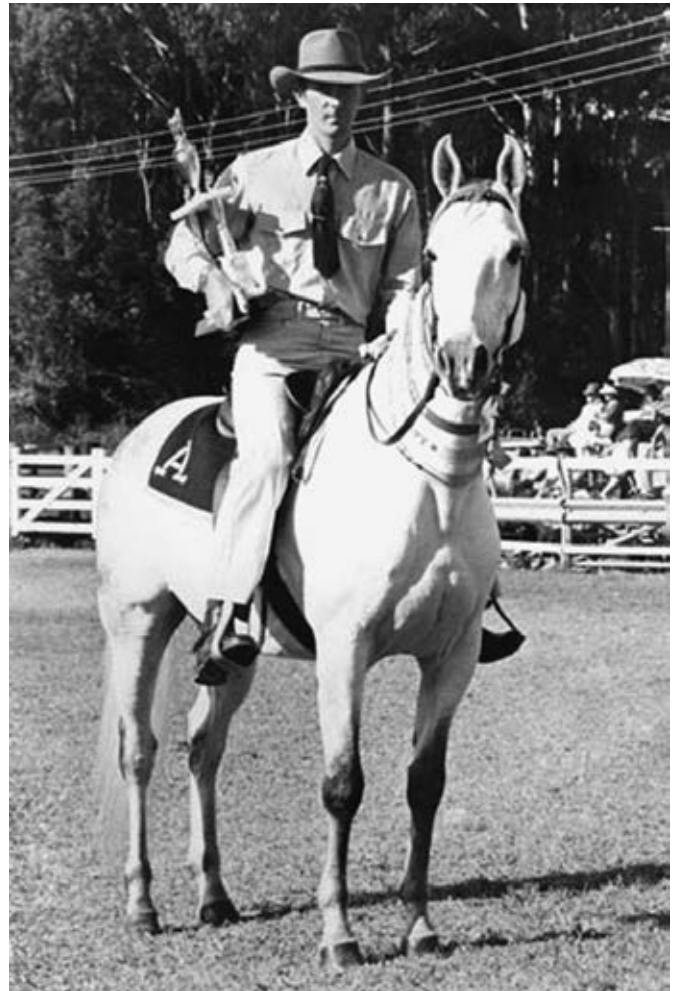
"She was born just outside the garden fence so we picked her up in the wheelbarrow and put her in a stable," said Maxine. "She wouldn't drink from a bottle so we used to pick her up to suckle. When she got that she could stand up herself she used to stand under her mother for shelter when it rained, she was so small."

Maxine had set out to breed a top hack but YARRANOO FLAIR was to be a top Galloway. Sold to Bruce McNaughton she showed her great love for cattle work. Sold to the Moss Family she also proved a successful broodmare. She had five foals including the sire OPHIR JAZZ (24 foals) a successful sire for Max Welch.

With the return of STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS from Stuart's property at Miriam Vale, TARA's - FM 1981, 1982 and 1984



Sensation, sire of TARA - FM



Ian Dobbin and SILVER MINSTREL. Ian is holding the Les Bantom Trophy for Western riding.

foals were by him. Her 1981 foal was YARRANOO SKYE. This mare greatly resembled her dam, TARA - FM, possessing her wonderful fluid movement. She was successfully campaigned as a two and three year old but an accident cut her career short. Maxine sent YARRANOO SKYE to Jim Page's stallion, PEPPYS DOC BAR, to produce YARRANOO PEPPERONI, a successful campdrafter for Ben and Traci Tapp. They also purchased YARRANOO SILVER OAK by DOCS FRECKLES OAK that Skye produced. Traci won the 2006 Ladies Campdraft at Warwick on her. A third foal by PEPPYS DOC BAR, YARRANOO TOPAZ won in led, hack and working at State and National level and has gone on to be a successful broodmare for the Yarranoo Stud.

TARA's - FM 1984 foal YARRANOO STROLLER (149 progeny) was not performed but has proved to be a very successful sire. His progeny have been successful in led, hack, working, campdrafting and polocrosse. One very well known stallion by him is YARRANOO MUSICIAN winner of the Stallion Campdraft at Warwick. YARRANOO STARMAN is another brilliant all rounder by Stroller winning 17 Open Campdrafts and 60 Junior, Juvenile and Ladies Campdrafts and winning selection for Gareth McLennan in the World Championship Campdraft. Stroller passed away in 2006 at 24 years of age.

TARA's - FM 1984 foal, YARRANOO MINTARA, a grey mare was very much like TARA - FM and won at State and National level but unfortunately never had a foal.

The 1986 foal, YARRANOO NATIVE DANCER was by NATIVE SON. This mare had great cattle sense and was used on the property before being sold.

TARA's - FM 1989 foal, YARRANOO TARMAC (34 progeny) by

MISS PAR MACK was a successful sire for Mt Sanford Station in the Northern Territory. His progeny included led, hack, dressage, campdrafting, polocrosse and many good station horses.

Her final foal was YARRANOO MISTER MAC.

When we look at the breeding of TARA - FM we find that she is by the Haydon bred sire Sensation.

In the July, 1976 issue of the Australian Stock Horse Magazine we find an article entitled, "Sensation Gave Arthur McIntyre Quite a Boost." In this article it says -

"The stallion who was 14 when Arthur got him from top campdrafter, Dave Wormwell, was called Sensation and he came from Jim Haydon's Bloomfield property at Murrurundi at the head of the Hunter Valley, where they have been breeding stock horses for a century and where the Horse Book goes back to the 1880s.

Sensation, a bay born in 1954 had fine blood on both sides. His sire was Young Valais by Madagascar by Blandford, out of Princess Cadena who through her sire, Valais traced back to Heroic. His dam was a Starlight mare, tracing back to Rocket and Rocklight."

While with Arthur, Sensation produced some great show horses including two that in the seventies were almost unbeatable - a mare called KARUMBA SILHOUETTE and a stallion named, BEST DRESSED.

When Maxine said earlier that the McLennan Family had great success with Young Valais horses they were not exaggerating. The McLennan family have four Foundation Mares with three carrying Young Valais breeding. TARA - FM is by Sensation who is by Young Valais, YARRANOO BANGLES - FM is by Young Valais, SISTER MONTY - FM is by McLennans Starlight who is by Young Valais and Young Valais also figures in the breeding of their Foundation Stallion STAR BLACK MINSTRIL - FS.

Young Valais was purchased from the Segenhoe Stud in 1951 by the Haydon Family and this is the source of the breeding of all these horses. The grandsire of Young Valais was Blandford who was also the sire of Midstream another influential Stock Horse tap root sire.

Young Valais dam Princess Cadena was by Valais, premier Thoroughbred sire on five occasions and also the sire of Heroic another influential tap root sire in The Australian Stock Horse Society.

TARA's - FM dam line is unknown. We know that the Wormwells were serious horse people and as she was their breed we can only assume that it was good breeding although not recorded.

Maxine's words probably sum up best the Foundation mare, TARA - FM -

"TARA - FM was the type of quality mare," said Maxine, "that so many people admired and also compared her to other horses. They would have been very pleased indeed when she went on to produce so many very good horses by a variety of stallions and to have their descendants carrying on her strong genes to produce more very successful competition horses over many years." 🐾



*Cameron McIntyre on KARUMBA
TOKEN and Sandra McIntyre on
KARUMBA SILHOUETTE*