

## FARLEIGH STUD

I first fell in love with Riding Ponies whilst living in the UK, but it was some time before I was to start breeding them. Farleigh Stud began breeding Riding Ponies in Australia after acquiring Furzey Kit-cat (Syon Royal Portrait (imp) x Furzey Catoushka (Pinehurst Concerto x Urubula Rebecca)) from Mary Pinsent in 1995. We are located in Armidale, northern NSW, and were fortunate to have been given or leased some lovely well-performed broodmares. We then had to 'make' most of our own.

There have been great limitations on showing, but from rather short show careers we have performed mares such as Farleigh Carinthia (Furzey Kit-cat x Furzey Sweet Charity), Farleigh Manon (Farleigh Nimrod x Farleigh Martinique) and Farleigh Catalina (Furzey Kit-cat x Farleigh Monserrat) before their retirement to the broodmare band. Other excellent performers bred by the stud include F. Kingston (Furzey Kitcat x F. Monserrat), F. Lytton (Furzey Kit-cat x F. Martinique) F. High Flyer (Furzey Kit-cat x Writhgil Unique) and F. Leander (Furzey Kit-cat x F. Martinique). Farleigh-bred stock, if they landed with suitable owners, have invariably achieved outstanding careers.

Farleigh's initial cross of Riding Ponies over Thoroughbreds or TB crosses has given us exactly what we aspired to achieve – a horse with type and temperament, but still with that hard-to-define show ring sparkle. We have continued on the same theme with our English imports, the stallions Trellech Enigma (imp) (Cusop Fingerprint x Trellech Spirit of Spring) and, more recently, Howetown Dreamcatcher (imp) (Stanley Grange Royal Appointment x Trellech Chantilly Dream), both of galloway size, as well as with the successful home-bred stallion Farleigh Nimrod (Furzey Kit-cat x Farleigh Monserrat).

The small TB mare Farleigh Monserrat (Triple Draw x Twice Lucky), bred by my mother, has been very influential on the stud, through her own winners, such as Farleigh Leander, Farleigh Nimrod and Farleigh Kingston (all by Furzey Kit-cat) and through her very successful broodmare daughters, such as Farleigh Martinique (by Farleigh Hatfield) and Farleigh Catalina (also by Furzey Kit-cat).

I have been blessed by the mentoring of Mary Pinsent in Australia and Carol Gould in the UK, both of whom have made great contributions to Riding Ponies in their respective



Farleigh Stud's foundation sire Furzey Kit-cat



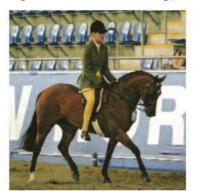
The home-bred stallion Farleigh Nimrod competing under saddle with Deborah



Farleigh's first imported stallion - British Riding Pony Trellech Enigma (imp)



Farleigh's 2013 stallion import from the UK — British Riding Pony **Howetown Dreamcatcher (imp).** He has the bloodlines, conformation, temperament and heigh that Deborah had been searching for.



Farleigh Carinthia and Deborah competing at the SHC Grand Nationals



**Farleigh Hollyhock** (Farleigh Nimrod x Mondiso Park Just A Jewel)



countries. They both have acute eyes for conformation and the stud has greatly benefited from their input.

Mary sold me my first, and very influential, Riding Pony Furzey Kit-cat. When she decided to forego breeding ponies, she gave me her three remaining mares — Furzey Catoushka (Pinehurst Concerto x Urubula Rebecca), a full sister to multiple National Pony of the Year Furzey Catman; Furzey Sweet Charity (Pinehurst Concerto x Devonshire Dearay); and Furzey Melody (Viewbank Barrister x Furzey Sweet Charity) who have each had a significant impact on the stud.

Carol guided me in the selection of the two colts I have imported and they certainly reflect my desire to breed larger ponies with type, temperament, movement and size. She is an absolute fountain of knowledge, but she would probably deny this!

Carol put her lovely mare Trellech Spirit of Spring (Royal Ensign of Trellech x Silent Spring of Trellech) to Cusop Finger-print (Cusop Disciplin x Cusop Ferial) (also sire of Cusop Dimension) to produce Trellech Enigma (imp), a horse with fabulous movement and a lovely temperament.

Another of her mares, Trellech Chantilly Dream (UK) (Royal Ensign x Chantilly Lace III) was put to Stanley Grange Royal Appointment (UK) (Small Land Maytino x Stanley Grange Joyride) to produce Howetown Dreamcatcher (imp) to deliver more height to the Farleigh breeding program, along with a wealth of different pony bloodlines.

Some smaller mares from Mondiso Park Stud have been added, all of lovely breeding. Among them are Mondiso Park Mercedes (Falconhurst Reprise (imp) x Trellech Minuette (imp)) and the successful producer Mondiso Park Just a Jewel (Falconhurst Reprise (imp) x Mondiso Park Julia).

In-hand champion Karanah Park Heaven's Gift (Al) (Royal Ensign of Trellech x Kirreway Bolero) is currently in foal to Howetown Dreamcatcher (imp) before embarking on a saddle career.

Our aim is to breed galloways and small hacks. This is the size of horse we ride ourselves and I think the market for ponies under 14hh high is more than adequately covered by other imports and studs.

Interestingly some bloodlines keep 'popping up' in many of our horses, particularly those of *Hyperion* on both the Thoroughbred and pony sides. The multiple Royal Show Champion hack *Bahama* (*Big Hat* (*GB*) x Fine Vintage (ITY)) has descendants on both the male and female sides of the stud, through his sire *Big Hat* (*GB*) and through mares such as Farleigh Havana, who is out of his half sister Wind the Key.

**Farleigh Highflyer** (Furzey Kit-cat x Writhgil Unique) Winner of many Riding Pony and Show Hunter Championships, RP Show Supreme Champion, multiple HOY winner, EA Nationals RU I will avoid the over-used description 'boutique stud', but we have bred between two and ten foals a year, depending on circumstances, and any breeder will know that perhaps only a couple of these will actually make it to the show ring with a competent rider.

We have infused TB blood where we thought necessary, either through the dam side or by using our last racehorse Samos (ASB) (Sir Samuel (USA) x Regal Ren), who had excellent conformation and a superb temperament. The stud's smallest stallion, Farleigh Tom Kitten (King Lodge Jeremy Fisher x Farleigh Coronet), standing 12.2hh, also carries the blood of Big Hat (GB) (High Hat x Gay Natasha), who was an outstanding sire of Royal Show Champion Hacks. Another of Big Hat's Farleigh descendants is the SHC Grand National winner Farleigh Manon.

Ponies bred by Farleigh have excelled in both show and performance fields, open and show hunter, working hunter, dressage, eventing and show jumping. This diversity of activity reflects what we do ourselves. As we live on a 3000 acre property, the horses are often called upon to muster and have to be sound enough to stand up to some fairly rigorous days' work. They are raised in a very natural environment, which enhances their soundness and durability.

Major show ring highlights would have to include the Grand National win of Farleigh Lytton, owned by Annabelle Mulready and ridden by Julia McGrath, in 2010 when I partnered his sister Farleigh Manon to Runner-up. Manon went one better the next year, winning in 2011, after which she was retired to the broodmare paddock. We also were thrilled to receive the award for the most successful stud at the Queensland Riding Pony Show in late 2012.

These results were a vast improvement on one of my first forays into the Riding Pony show ring, leading poor Farleigh Catalina, where the judge, John Careless (of the Fairley Stud UK), gallantly had to explain what was required in a Led Pony workout! She won despite my amateur efforts, and the judge then travelled to South Australia where he put Farleigh Lytton up, one of his first wins.

I am always grateful to those studs who have imported stallions and taken risks from which we are all benefiting. The friends who are always there through thick and thin are invaluable and, of course, I also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the continuing support of my family, without which none of this would have been possible.

Deborah Bell



Farleigh Manon - Grand National winner and RU, RP Show Supreme Chambion, multiple HOY winner



Farleigh Kingston and owner Eliane Campbell complete a lap of honour after winning the Grand National Show Hunter Galloway over 14.2hh & ne 15hh in 2013



In her Newcomer year Farleigh Angelique (Furzey Kit-cat x Writhgil Unique) is competing successfully at shows and in dressage with Lisa Jones Photo: Narelle Wockner