

THE CAMEO STUD – ARCHIVED NEWS 2004

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It's been a hectic five months or so since I last added to the news from The Cameo Stud, starting with our Open Day in November. We were celebrating our "first 30 years" of breeding Arabian horses as well as the 100th birthday of our farm. Friends and family helped us to prepare, the only flaw being that the farm was looking very dry after all these years of drought, a fact most remarked-upon by our visitors, and very evident in the videos and photographs taken on that day. However this in no way reflected on the condition of the horses as Ken has worked so hard to keep the hay and grain up to them during these difficult years[all grown on our farm], and has strip-grazed them every day so they were the only horses in the district who got to graze on fresh grass and lucerne for at least a few hours every day. They are fortunate indeed.

The Open Day was a great success and we thank our many friends who attended from as far away as Rockhampton [thanks Jan and Ken] and Torrington NSW [thanks Glenice and Pierre]. We welcomed about 150 people, and started by parading 9 of the horses, including three broken-in horses for sale. Our veteran stallion CHIP CHASE DESERT WIND [1975] led it off, fittingly as he has been with us for 28 of those 30 years. He was represented by his daughter THE CAMEO MAGNOLIA [1981] the dam of all those wonderful endurance horses, and the only remaining daughter of our foundation mare Deirdre. CEDARDELL ZANZIBAR [1985] made a noisy entrance, thrilled to be spring-trotting around his great rival "Windy's" very own paddock - at last! People are always amazed by his action, and he did not disappoint. He was represented by three of his progeny - our young bay stallion CAMEO ZHIVAGO [2000] and two young broken-in mares, CAMEO LOUIZIANNA [1999] and CAMEO COLUMBINE [1999]. Ken rode the two mares. Our Pure Crabbet stallion ROYALUND SPARKLING SILVER was not present, but his gelding son CAMEO TRANSKEI [1999] was ridden for us by Lexie Donald, who also rode a Somerled gelding, SOMERSAULT. Finally, our young Pure Crabbet stallion HALLELUJAH [1998] closed the Parade. He too is a showman with scintillating movement, and was very happy to perform for his audience. We walked our visitors down the lane through our broodmares, before a BBQ lunch under the trees.

And so to the foaling season as we had no foals to show off on our Open Day. Luckily we had no inkling of what was to come, because we finished the season with the loss of three foals and one treasured mare in foal, which left us devastated. However, we dusted ourselves off, and the mares who lost foals are now safely back in foal and we look forward to the next season. Our beautiful CAMEO FAIRYTALE, much-admired at our Open Day, can never be replaced, but we have her daughter CAMEO OPHELIA [by "Windy"] who later this year will take up maternal duties in her mother's place, and of course, Fairytale's half-sisters [all from our beloved Kalila] Cameo Windchyme and Cameo Witchery. Fairytale [by Mustafa*] was the dam of Jan Tyrrell's CAMEO SLEEPING BEAUTY, and her much younger full-sister CAMEO ZENA who will no doubt hit the trails one day as will a handsome gelding CAMEO WOLVERINE [by "Windy"] who is a full-brother to CAMEO COSMOPOLITAN [UAE] and CAMEO CO-STAR [Julie Bartulis], both endurance horses.

Despite all our catastrophes, we have 7 lovely healthy foals to show for the 2003/4 season, and they are a great joy. They are - CAMEO PENZANCE [Cedardell Zanzibar/Cameo Windchyme] Grey gelding. CAMEO HELOIZE [Chip Chase Desert Wind/Cedardell Zanarra] Grey filly. CAMEO SWEET DREAMZ [Cedardell Zanzibar/Wellworth Dreamtime] Grey filly. CAMEO CHRIZTABEL [Cedardell Zanzibar/Cameo Somerset] Grey filly. CAMEO AMBROZIA [Cedardell Zanzibar/Cameo Allegra] Grey filly. CAMEO PEREGRINE [Cedardell Zanzibar/Cameo Primulaa] Grey colt. CAMEO HALCYON [Arfaja Haluj/Cameo Tosca] Pure Crabbet Grey filly.

They are a fine crop - five fillies and two colts. Beautiful old Dreamtime has given us a stunning daughter to go on with. Cedardell Zanarra has never had a colt! Cameo Somerset has her first foal, at the age of 19 years, and brings us full-circle for our 30th as she is the daughter of our original Purebred mare, Ashal! Cameo Primulaa's handsome colt is a 3/4 brother to Cameo Lionheart [UAE], Cameo Azaleaa, etc, etc, and will remain a colt for the time being. And Tosca finally has an Arfaja Haluj baby after losing a precious full-brother several years ago due to an injury. In the midst of loss and despair there was still much to be thankful for, and isn't that the horse story all over?

SALES: We were pleased to see off a number of our horses to new homes, to start their lives in earnest. Peter and Penny Toft, who earlier had bought CAMEO AZALEAA, also bought Cameo Zaire's [UAE] full-sister, the bay CAMEO ZAMBESI MOON. Louise Suel purchased the chestnut Anglo-Arab gelding CAMEO GOLDFINGER [full-brother to Aurora Australis [NZ], The Salamander [NZ], The Wizard of Canterbury, etc, etc]. He will soon be off to New Zealand too, with Louise's daughter Patrice already starting him off under saddle. Two of our geldings found new homes with good friends. CAMEO TRANSKEI is now the property of Leanne Morgan of Brisbane, and SOMERSAULT has been purchased by Donna Roberts. They are both lovely quiet boys who will soon be out and about in endurance with their new owners.

We will now start to break-in the rising 4YO geldings, and we have some beauties among them! If anyone would like a sneak preview, gave us a call, as they probably won't be slow to find new homes.

In the early stages of 2004, we have had some wonderful falls of rain. Not enough to make our creek flow, but enough to grown lots of grass and please our crops no end. We have also had weeks of 40 degree-plus temperatures which have been an enormous trial to both man and beast, but the latest storms have brought some relief there too.

There- consider yourselves up-to date for the present. Hopefully I will add to the story at Easter. Happy 2004 to everyone, and good luck to all our endurance horses out on the track this season!