

## THE CAMEO STUD – NEWS ARCHIVE 2008

19th August 2008

Did anyone notice that I failed to post any news during 2007, and the first 8 months of 2008 are looking a little sad as well?? The farm diary for 2007 shows that more than twelve months were dedicated to the cleaning up of 100 years of detritus on our old family farm at Oakey. The contract for the sale of “Helmsley” was signed in August, the day before EI struck SE Queensland, the parting made easier because we had already found the perfect new property for us. Did I say EI? Yes, we were immediately zoned Red, which meant our planned departure with 62 horses was delayed by several months. Our poor buyer must have thought we'd be with him forever. He even had to observe OUR biosecurity at his own front gate, and he didn't even own a horse!

We were eventually granted a special permit to move all our horses within a 48 hour period, to our new farm also within the Red Zone. It was quite a feat but we managed it and the horses have settled in well. We have built fences, sheds, yards and stallion runs, and as of last week have now moved into our new home. Luckily we had only bred four mares last year, in anticipation of the move, but the 2008 season will see most of our 15 broodmares with foals at foot. Among them will be foals by new sires Cameo Prospero [Anglo] and Emblazon. Ken has also been busy breaking-in geldings and young mares, some for sale and some for himself to endurance in the future.

The Cameo Stud's “pin-up girl” for 2007 was CAMEO ZINNIAA [UAE] who ended the 2007 season in 4th place and highest Australian-bred horse, on the FEI World Rankings. She was also Horse of the Year in the UAE competition, and produced a pace of 27 kph in her last race of the season, which she won.

### 2006/7 EMIRATES ENDURANCE HORSE OF THE YEAR

It's come to something when you can Google your horse and up pops a multitude of sites reporting on her successes! This year a horse bred by Ken and Coralie Gordon's Cameo Stud at Oakey in Queensland, CAMEO ZINNIAA, who is owned by the Al Reef Stables of Sheikh Tahnoun Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, has won the Best Horse Award in the newly-constituted Dubai Endurance Challenge. Points were awarded for her placings during the season. She is ridden by Yousouf Ahmad Al Beloushi who won the awards for Top Rider and Top Trainer, or by Omair Husain Abdulla Al Bloushi. Al Reef, which had several of the top horses this past season, was winning stable, sweeping all the major awards.

Cameo Zinniaa is sired by The Cameo Stud's 22-year-old endurance sire Cedardell Zanzibar who is a son of the Pure Crabbet stallion Somerled from the mare Zaria\* by Argos from a Dargee mare. The very beautiful Zaria\* was a Top Ten Mare at the 1983 Australian Championships at the age of 17 years. Zinniaa's dam The Cameo Magnoliaa was by Cameo foundation sire Chip Chase Desert Wind who was by Cherokee Mecca and therefore a paternal half-brother to endurance supersire Chip Chase Sadaqa. The Cameo Magnoliaa is a half-sister to the beautiful stallion

Boomerang Muskateer, being from the Pure Crabbet Grand Royal\* mare Deirdre. Magnoliaa was a top show filly in her day, and appeared in the 1984 WAHO Parade in Sydney. She has produced a family of endurance stars including CAMEO LIONHEART [UAE], CAMEO VIRGINIA [Gheerulla Stables], CAMEO AZALEAA [UAE] and CAMEO CRUISE [Donna Renaud]. In Australia, Zinniaa was owned and campaigned by both Bob Sample and Toft Endurance.

Since her exportation to the Emirates Zinniaa placed third in the 2005 President's Cup after leading for some of the way. While I don't have all her placings for the 2006/7 season, I have noted a 7th, three 3rds, a 2nd and an end-of-season win to her name. In most of the races she seems to average 22 to 23 kph which is really flying. The distances are 120km and 160 km. In the FEI World Rankings, Zinniaa's ranking for the 2006/7 season [to 27/3/07] is 4th . She has 231 points. I noted that CAMEO ZAIRE who was Best-Conditioned Horse in the 1998 World Endurance Championships, is also still racing and had a placing this season. He was the first Cedardell Zanzibar horse to be exported to the UAE and is now 17 years of age.

Writing about Zinniaa's final race of the season, the Shaikh Maktoum Bin Hamdan Al Maktoum CEI three-star 120 km endurance ride, the local press reported: "It was a terrific display by Yousouf as he trailed Maria [Mercedes Alvarez Ponton of Spain] by over 5 minutes going into the final 12 km. But Cameo Zinniaa, the 11-year-old chestnut mare which is trained by the rider himself, was in devastating form and nearly reached an average speed of 27 kmph on the final loop to leave the Spanish rider well and truly beaten. Yousouf said, 'I was always confident of winning, though Maria was leading in the third and fourth stages. But Cameo Zinniaa proved she was a champion.'"

August 2008

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