

FOUNDATION SIRE

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET

ASH REG 2280

BY JOY POOLE (OAM)

"I refused \$150,000 for ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET back in the 1970s," reminisced Les Jensen, "My accountant said I had rocks in my head, refusing that sort of money. A few years later he apologised to me when he saw the money ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET generated in service fees. He was so popular as a sire we had to give up competing him as we felt you couldn't do both."

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET has 399 ASH registered progeny which proves that Les's statement is no idle boast but Les will also admit that, when he refused that money it was not about economics but about sentimentality for as Les said, "ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET to us was like one of the family, money really didn't come into the equation!"

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET was born on 1st December 1967, but the story really began back in the early 1950s at the Tenterfield Showground, which is thought to be the birthplace of campdrafting, when renowned horsewoman, Gwen Winter was about to give a two year old Bobbie Bruce filly called Respect a run in the campdraft. Gwen's friend, Stumpy Timmens, had begged Gwen not to run the filly as she had very bad splints. The filly was so sore that a mere touch on one of the splints and the filly would almost go down in pain. The world is full of "what ifs" but the truth is about "what is" and the filly was showing such outstanding potential that Gwen could not resist the temptation to compete. The rest is history! Gwen was racing with the beast when suddenly the filly fell and rolled over the great horsewoman and Gwen Winter was dead!

"I know this story is true," says Les, "as Stumpy Timmens and I were great friends and he told me the story himself. Stumpy had broken the filly



ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET

| 1st | 2nd | 3rd | 4th |
|------------|----------|-------------|--------------|
| | | | Phalaris |
| | | | Law Maker |
| | | | Book Law |
| | Laureate | | Whittier |
| | | Stage Wit | Stagegirl |
| Commandant | | | Tredennis |
| | | Golden Myth | Golden Lilly |
| Cavil | | | Chaucer |
| | | Versatile | Verve |

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET

(FS) ASH Reg: 2280

| | | | |
|---------|--------------|--------|------------------------|
| | | | Moorefield |
| | | Bruce | Little Nell |
| | Bobbie Bruce | | Sylvander |
| | | Cadger | Bonnie |
| Respect | | | Kenaquah |
| | | | Grampian Hills Attunga |
| | | | Unknown Dam |
| | | | Grampian Hills Select |
| | | | Unknown Dam |

in and had told me what a great mare she would be in the future. I got in touch with Gwen's father and said that if he ever wanted to sell the filly, we would buy her. We didn't hear a word for about six months after Gwen's death and then the message came that we could have her. She was three years old when we bought her."

"I think she threw to the Bobbie Bruces, she was very clean legged and could be in full flight in a few strides. I think they got that from the grandsire, Bruce, who held records at Randwick over four furlongs. At her first start the judge was Jack Burgess and after the second round my cousin and I were joint leaders - ten points clear. It was an open area that we were campdrafting in and the boundaries were marked with chalk lines; we had Angus cattle that were a bit difficult and in the final, both my cousin and I went over the chalk lines and were disqualified. The next week when I started in the campdraft we won. I don't like to brag about horses but I don't think there were any much better than Respect. I always rated her and ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET on an even footing when it came to what they could do. You can't deny breeding speed into horses to work cattle. It is so much easier for a horse if he catches the beast at 3/4 pace rather



Commandant

than fully extended. ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET had inbuilt speed, he never pulled and he loved doing what he did with cattle."

"After those first couple of starts with Respect I sold my butchering business and bought Elliotts Creek Station. As part of the butcher shop sale my truck went with it. I had ordered a double float but these were just coming onto the market and were in short supply so I turned up at the next campdraft without a horse. Hugh McAllister said, 'Where's the mare?' I told him the story and he sent me home with his float to bring her back the next day. Hugh ended up taking the mare for a while and later was to run second, beaten by one point, on her in a Warwick Gold Cup to Arn Cook on Norelle. Unfortunately Respect was kicked in the knee while Hugh had her and this came against her for the rest of her life."

"When I decided to breed from Respect I sent her to a Thoroughbred horse called Commandant. He was over on the South Burnett and he had been a very good galloper and later in life they had also campdrafted him."

The resultant foal was ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET.

When I asked Les if they had ever kept a record of ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET's performances the answer was unfortunately, no, but Les added, "In the last season we campdrafted him, in 1975 when he was an eight year old we travelled a lot of miles and campdrafted for eight months and he won nine open campdrafts, several placings and cut out prizes. In his first start as a four year old he won the cut out and his second start out he placed third in an open campdraft."

When Les is confronted with trying to recall his best win, he answers, "He won a big campdraft at Miriam Vale one day on difficult cattle and as they were sashing the horses Jack Burgess said, 'You've just seen the best camp horse in Australia.' He won a Cup at Crows Nest, and Oh! I forgot - he won the Canning Downs and the Cut Out in the Warwick Gold Cup!!"

Not only did ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET do well at Warwick but he also sired two winners of the Warwick Gold Cup, JENSENS MEG and COMMISSIONER and the dam of the winner of the stallion campdraft, KIRKBYS STUD EPAULET, the mother of KIRKBYS STUD OFFICER.

"I felt very proud," said Les, "when the great horseman, Fraser Ramsey, was asked for the best camp horse he had ever seen and he replied, 'ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET and NABINABAH

BREEZETTE'. Another great horseman who showed interest in him was the late Jack Palmer."

Obviously, to retire a super champion in his prime was a great gamble as he then would need to leave all his advertising to his progeny.

"Luckily for us his first foal to start, my brother's horse, RECRUIT, won his maiden at his first start."

The progeny of this great sire more than did the job for him in advertising as he started on a service fee of \$500 then went to \$1,000 and finally finished on \$1,500. Les estimates he served 500 mares. When you do the sums on this, the \$150,000 offer doesn't look so large.

"ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET was a very intelligent horse," continued Les, "and had a great love for what he did. We built him a Besser block stable and if any cattle got in his yard he would work them. If we were doing cattle work in the race and he was on the other side he would be working the cattle coming up the race. ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET had confidence in himself and nerves of steel when you rode him. When you rode onto the camp you could leave him switched off until you were ready to go and when you did he was immediately alive. My son, Garry, rode him in all of his starts and I give a lot of credit to him on the way he rode him. On the camp, ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET could block and turn cattle without going to the fence, at times he would be so low in the turn, Garry's foot would be almost touching the ground!"

"You could talk to him and he would respond. I used to work draft horses when I was young and I have always used my voice with my horses."

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET lived to the grand old age of 31 years.

"Peter Allan, a vet who regularly came to Elliotts Creek, could never get over that even when he was a very old horse he never showed any grey around the eyes or nostrils and was always alert in the head. Unfortunately, he hurt his back serving a mare which eventually led to us having to put him down as we were concerned that he would get down one day when no one was there. We certainly never wanted such a wonderful horse to suffer."

"On his registration papers he is listed as brown but in actual fact he was more black than brown. When we measured him he never quite made 15 hands."

When we look at the progeny of this 'pocket rocket' we find that he is represented by some outstanding progeny. We also note that now these progeny are



Ron Jensen winning on Meg (Photo HL Nott)



1992 Warwick Gold Cup Winner **COMMISSIONER** and Bob Black. **COMMISSIONER** is a son of **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET**

producing outstanding stock which shows the ability of the **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADETS** to breed on.

ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET produced over 50 horses that were used as sires and have ten or more progeny recorded with The Australian Stock Horse Society. His most successful sire son is **DOGWOOD COMET** [88 progeny] closely followed by **QUIDONG CHANCELLOR** [85], **WATTLEBRAE GLEN IDOL** [85], **RECRUIT** [84], **QUIDONG JAP** [81], **QUIDONG BRIGADIER** [75], **DANDILLA KING CADE** [75], **BELLDIVA CAPTAIN JACK** [69] and **BAWNDUGGIE INDET** [67]. Other successful sire sons included **QUIDONG CHINK** [47], **KIRKBYS COMMANDO** [47], **DANDILLA CADETS GUN** [46], **LITTLE SOLDIER** [45], **QUIDONG TOBRUK** [44], **FLASH BOBBY** [42], **OMELO JIG SAW** [40] and **YANDALOO COUGAR** [40].

It is interesting to note that the \$150,000 offer for **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET** was made by Deidre Singh of the Quidong Stud who, although being unsuccessful in his purchase, went on to breed some very notable horses by him.

Other notable sires by him were **DANDILLA COMPASS** [38], **COOLAMERT CAVALIER** [37], **HUNTER VIEW COMMANDER** [35], **CAMADOON MUSKET** [33], **CHISUM** [33], **LAWLORS BANDANA** [31] and **BANGLES CADET** [30].

However, **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET** has not only proved to be a tremendous sire of sires but also of mares. His daughter, **JENSENS MEG** won the Warwick Gold Cup and his daughters **STRATHMUA SAPHIRE** and **KIRKBYS STUD EPAULET** are the dams of two very prominent sires in **OCEAN WAVE** and **KIRKBYS STUD OFFICER**.

You can always guarantee that, when a horse proves as successful as **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET**, there are always



KIRKBYS MAJOR (a grandson of **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET**) with owner Phillip Kirkby



QUIDONG BRIGADIER (by **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET**) currently has 75 registered progeny with the Society

powerful genetics behind him that allow him, not only to be a great horse himself but to be able to pass this ability on to his progeny and so it is with this champion. **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET** is by Commandant a Thoroughbred horse that is held in very high esteem by Queensland breeders. Although **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET** would be considered his most outstanding offspring he produced many others only a hairs breadth away, including **PATROL CHIEF** and Jack Hughes' **VOLLETTE**.

Commandant, as a racehorse, was only unplaced twice in twelve starts before a knee injury brought about his premature retirement. [For a full article on Commandant see *ASH Journal* Nov/Dec 2001].

On the dam's side - his mother **Respect**, is by the legendary **Bobbie Bruce**. There has been a lot written about this mighty horse but no matter how many pages are compiled it could never do justice to the influence this horse has had on The Australian Stock Horse Society. He is the sire of two other Foundation Stallions, **MUSTER** and **SCRUMLO FIRELIGHT** and is the sire of the dam of the Foundation Stallion **CECIL BRUCE**, [STANTON STUD SAUCER] as well as **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET** [Respect].

Respect was out of **Grampian Hills Select** who was by **Grampian Hills Attunga**. At this time, Mrs Kater of **Grampian Hills** was breeding some excellent Stock Horses.

It is amazing to think that a horse can be so brilliant at campdrafting that he can be retired after only three seasons and at the very early age of eight years, and command such respect amongst those who saw him perform or those who heard about him, that he could serve a full book of mares for the next 20 years and the service fee continued to rise during the life of the horse. But this was no ordinary horse - but the great **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET**, the sixth most influential sire in Australian Stock Horse History. *A.*



DANDILLA KING CADE (by **ELLIOTTS CREEK CADET**) also currently has 75 registered progeny with the Society