

# WARRENBRI ROMEO



*Lindsay Knight riding  
WARRENBRI ROMEO*

**By Joy Poole (OAM)**



WARRENBRI ROMEO

# A FATHER'S LEGACY

"It's our turn, there's no rhyme or reason for me to think this but I just know it's our turn."

The prophetic words of Peter Knight as he looked at the two year old WARRENBRI ROMEO.

"Dad always knew from Day One that WARRENBRI ROMEO was going to be special. He was a standout from the day he was born," says Simon Knight.

**A**t 27 years of age when the prophecy has become reality, the great horse walks into the ring prior to the Warrenbri Reduction Sale for his last public appearance. He steps proudly, his coat gleaming in the sun, aware of the significance of the occasion. It is history in the making, those present will all one day say, "I saw WARRENBRI ROMEO at his last public appearance!"

Peter Knight borrowed a mare, KRUETTE, from his uncle, Toby Knight, and sent her to the Thoroughbred, Lord Coronation, Ron Radford's horse at Cubbaroo Station NSW. The resulting foal was WARRENBRI JULIE. Peter Knight used this mare himself and rode her to Open Campdrafter status but also lent her to his children for the pony club. When he decided to breed from her he sent her to REALITY. To this stallion in 1971 she produced WARRENBRI BEATRICE, in 1973, WARRENBRI MARION and in January 1975 WARRENBRI ROMEO. In December the same year to ABDUL she produced WARRENBRI ABEL.

As a young horse, the whole family rode WARRENBRI ROMEO. Simon says, "A lot of us didn't know what we were doing but no one could bugger him up, we tried but he still kept doing his best for us."

"Ross Clarke of Murrurundi broke him in but he only had him 14 days before we picked him up and brought him home. Ross was such a good rider and I was only a bit of a kid. When I got on him to take over the riding WARRENBRI ROMEO felt so powerful. This was one of his features when we started to perform him. He was



Peter Knight

1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
				Red Gaudlet
			Cecil	Meretha II
		Radium		Hukatere
			Black Bess	
	Dimray		Midnight	Silvern (28) (1917)
			Silvius (18) (1924)	Addenda (28) (1919)
		Doreen		
			Nevadah	
REALITY (1958) Reg No: 1002				Cecil
			Radium	Black Bess
		Bignells Radiant		Taylor's Saladin Sure
			Mac Whites Dawn	
	Glamor			Silver Girl
		Unknown Dam		

## WARRENBRI ROMEO (1975)

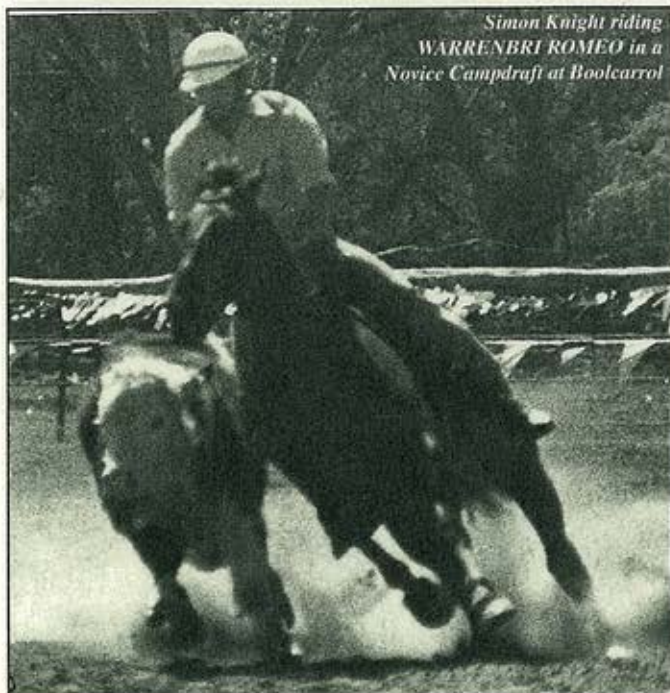
Reg No: 26525

				Hurry On (28) (1913)
			Coronach (28) (1929)	
				Wet Kiss (28) (1917)
		Cornation Day		Cicero (28) (1902)
				Ciliata (28) (1918)
		Lord Coronation		Carbide (28) (1901)
			Rusden	
			Lady Muriel	
			Lancepop	

## WARRENBRI JULIE (1958)

Reg No: 987

				Spearfelt (1921)
			Abspear (1927)	
				Lady Abtorta (1920)
		Whistle		
			Unknown Dam	
		KRUETTE (1952) Reg No: 990		
			Blend	
		Corkscrew		
			Unknown Dam	



Simon Knight riding  
WARRENBRI ROMEO in a  
Novice Campdraft at Boolcarrol

powerful but very soft, when campdrafting he never ran past his cattle, he rated them very well."

WARRENBRI ROMEO's campdrafting career got off to a flying start and before long he was winning and placing. A very promising start was cut short when an eye infection at 7 years of age ended his career.

As a sire he produced champion horses. WARRENBRI OMEGA and WARRENBRI CASSANOVA were from his first three crops. Before long Romeo's progeny were featuring in campdrafts, working classes at Royal Show level and gaining the attention of horse people everywhere. At the RAS Sydney, WARRENBRI OMEGA won the Supreme Working Horse twice, runner up was the Romeo mare, HAZELWOOD ROMANCE. Later on Romance won the award as well. The stallion DR JEKYLL (WARRENBRI ROMEO/HANNAFORD STUD FREEDOM) won Supreme Led at the ASH National Championships, giving Romeo another string to his bow. Unfortunately, Peter Knight, was to die of cancer only 2 months short of seeing his horse's progeny complete an incredible feat. At the 1990 Warwick Gold Cup WARRENBRI OMEGA (WARRENBRI ROMEO/V BAR N BONNET) won the Gold Cup, ridden by Lindsay Knight, in second place was Terry Hall on BAR NONE OMO (WARRENBRI ROMEO/REGRET), third place was Christine Hall on HAZELWOOD LUCKY STRIKE (WARRENBRI ROMEO/BOBBIE MCGEE) and in fifth place Lindsay Knight on WARRENBRI CHORUS GIRL (WARRENBRI ROMEO/WARRENBRI SWINGING SONG). That year 7 of the 15 finalists were by WARRENBRI ROMEO.

It is probably true to say that today every serious breeder of Australian Stock Horses has introduced Romeo bloodlines into their stud either through a Romeo colt or sending mares to Romeo bred horses.

For several seasons Romeo was open to the public and in his last open season in 1995, he stood at a \$2,000 service fee. When he was used as a private book sire by the three Knight brothers - Simon, Jeremy and Lindsay, the only opportunity to purchase a service by him came when the brothers on several occasions donated a service by Romeo, with the proceeds going to the Cancer Research Appeal in memory of their late father, Peter. The popularity of Romeo

can be measured when these services at auction made up to \$6,500.

As a sale topper, WARRENBRI ROMEO is phenomenal! In 1999 WARRENBRI BONNIE (WARRENBRI ROMEO/ROSEBROOK SHAMROCK), coming in as Lot 239 in a catalogue of 242, top priced at \$25,500 and in 2000 WARRENBRI LARA (WARRENBRI ROMEO/WARRENBRI LANTAKI), Lot 263, created a new ASH Australian record when she top priced at \$36,000. Warrenbri Stud has top priced Dalby for the last four years.

If we look at WARRENBRI ROMEO's breeding we see that he is by REALITY, a sire who got some very good sire sons including - WARRENBRI ROMEO, PARKWAY ALLABY, REAL BOBBY, SILVERWEIR MR REALITY, HAZELWOOD TEXACO, RUSSIAN ROULETTE, KRUI ROULETTE, SEVENTY SEVEN REVENGE, HALLS REPEAT, BATES LITTLE JOE, LUCKENOUGH DESTINY, RAYS SWAGMAN etc. REALITY is by Dimray, who many astute Hunter Valley horsemen believe is the greatest progenitor of campdrafters of the last 50 years. Dimray of course is by Radium out of the good mare, Doreen. REALITY's dam, Glamor, Alf Bignell's campdraft mare, was by Bignell's Radiant who also was by Radium. Mac White's Dawn was a half sister to another good sire, Dinkum.

The dam, WARRENBRI JULIE, an ASH Impact Mare, has the distinction of having the Sydney Cup winner Abspear in her breeding. Abspear won the Sydney Cup in 1943. Her mother, KRUETTE, is an ASH Foundation Mare with over 1,300 descendants in the ASH Studbook.

Today there are 461 progeny of WARRENBRI ROMEO registered, of these, 72 are registered sires. With this enormous number of stallions registered by WARRENBRI ROMEO we can only assume that the numbers of horses carrying the WARRENBRI ROMEO influence will expand rapidly through the next generation. For the first time in ASH history a stallion of WARRENBRI ROMEO's standing will have a supply of stored semen when he passes on but time will tell as to how many mares will have foals from this supply.

Peter Knight may have missed seeing WARRENBRI ROMEO's success as a sire of Warwick Gold Cup winners, but he died knowing, "It was his turn" - he had bred a truly champion horse. A.

**Footnote:**

The incredible success of Romeo horses at the Warwick Gold Cup continued in 2001 when KINCHELA ROMEO'S REPEAT won the Stallion Campdraft.

**STOP PRESS:** WARRENBRI ROMEO mare, SODA MARION, set a new record price at the 2001 Dalby Sale - \$49,000. Sold by L & J Knight to Acton Land and Cattle, Julia Creek.



The champion sire during  
his last public outing