



Photo:
Barbara Lee

Matriarch mare
JATS BAR RADIUMS AMBER - HSH

Photo:
Kate Jones

JATS BAR ADIOS ACRES, was bred, trained and ridden by his owner John, a retired policeman living at Manilla New South Wales, whose passion for campdrafting and breeding Australian Stock Horses confirming that life's goals are achievable if you are prepared to increase your knowledge of your craft, work hard and never give up on a dream.

Once again, the atmosphere of the final round of the 2020 Dalgety Stallion Shootout held at the Nutrien Classic Campdraft in Tamworth in February was electric. Each year the Shootout draws campdrafting stallions from the east coast of Australia whose progeny are in the sale, to compete over the three rounds, culminating in a deciding cut-out phase on the Friday night. Leading in the final round by only one point with scores of 90 and 89 was the ASH registered black stallion JATS BAR ADIOS ACRES with rider John Lee. A high score was necessary to maintain the lead, the crowd roared when Adios Acres and John left the camp on a score of 23, the task of beating their final score of 202 points proving too difficult for the remaining competitors. The winning result even more remarkable with the drought restricting John and Adios Acres to only competing at four campdrafts for the previous year.

Where did it start? Sixty years ago, as a young lad riding his pony whilst growing up on his grandparent's dairy farm in the New South Wales Southern district of Cobargo, John's love of riding horses and chasing cattle has only grown stronger over those years. The challenge of campdrafting drawing him to the sport and Australian Stock Horses whilst working as a police officer in Mittagong 40 years ago. The opportunity to ride the incredibly athletic ASH chestnut stallion RADIUM BRUCE - HSH lead John to breed his daughter Tracy's palomino skewball mare Gypsy to RADIUM BRUCE - HSH, producing a palomino filly JATS BAR RADIUMS AMBER - HSH.

Amber proved to be a cracker of an open class campdraft mare, not big in stature but very fast with huge in desire to work a cow, winning drafts for both John and Tracy, before injury and retiring to stud, becoming the matriarch mare of his Jats Bar ASHS Stud.

The dam of open campdrafters JATS BAR RIVOLI WHISPER - HSH and JATS BAR RADIUMS COSTER LH, Ambers last foal a black filly JATS BAR RADIUMS REFLECTION - HSH by ADIOS REFLECT IS - HSH was injured as a foal and consequently as a young mare bred to the leading campdraft sire ACRES DESTINY. The resulting foal being JATS BAR ADIOS ACRES, a black colt born in 2006. When John broke Adios Acres in he knew he had something special, cool minded, athletic and willing to learn, his training progressed with long days spent mustering cattle on the banks of Lake Keepit. Successfully winning the 2013 ABCRA and ASHS Maiden Campdraft Horse of the Year Title. Over the years Adios Acres has proved his versatility in winning many championships in ridden and working classes at ASHS State and National level.

As all the foal handling, breaking in and sale preparation is done by John, he and wife Barbara only breed a few foals each year, ensuring each horse is well handled and has a good start in its education. A limited number of fillies are retained for showing, campdrafting and future breeding with their first foal out of novice campdraft mare JATS BAR ALIBI, a stunning looking colt by HAZELWOOD CONGRESSMAN exciting John with its cool calm mind.

A believer "that it is not what you get from your horses but what you give for your horses", is more important, John and Barbara feel that time given, volunteering, coaching, judging and assisting other horse lovers to strive for their dreams is their greatest achievement. 🐾

Article by Barbara Lee