

FORESTWAY ODETTTE

New Forest Pony

Sire: Forestway Royal Ascot Dam: Ardchattan Monique

Odette was bred by Jan & Neil McBain of the renowned Forestway Stud near Benalla. She came to live with us at Tooborac when she was almost 3 and was my 40th birthday surprise as a replacement for the ex racehorses I was becoming increasingly nervous of riding. There was never any intention for her to do more than hack around the property, rounding up cattle and also being a larger pony for all the grandchildren to move onto after the Shetland was outgrown.

In 1999, at the suggestion of Jan McBain, we entered her in the RAS Summer Show & APSB Stud Shows. We had no clue of showing and were astonished at her success at those shows. From then on she was shown in in-hand & ridden classes by David Maughan, albeit spasmodically due to work commitments, until 2003 when the grandchildren decided that Grandpa had better hang up his boots and let them have a go.! The 3 girls have had great fun and are usually successful on their endeavours.

Since then she has been prepared (initially with a little help) and shown by Ariane, Kizia & Priska, who call themselves "The Zeema Team". They have done all the work on her themselves and have had great fun and huge enjoyment from all their hard work with this wonderful pony. The adult contingent is now the support team of chauffeur, photographer and catering.

In addition to their success in the show arena they attend Kyneton Pony Club with her, each of them taking it in turn to ride her at the monthly rallies and various interschool events.

At home on the farm, Odette enjoys rounding up cattle and giving rides to all our little non-riding visitors, of whom she takes great care. One of the most amazing things I have seen is her reaction when being ridden by an intellectually disabled child. Odette walks as if on eggshells, she has a sixth sense that the child needs protecting. Even when she has slipped off (due to her lack of balance), Odette stopped dead still when she felt her balance change until the situation has been rectified. Her behaviour is quite remarkable.

During the stoppage of events due to the EI situation, the "Team" auditioned for roles as extras in a TV series called Saddle Club. In addition to the girls they were looking for a quiet pony for a disabled child to ride, so we suggested Odette and she was dragged out of the paddock, given a shampoo and was back in action once again.

She had never seen anything like the TV equipment (umbrellas, reflecting screens, cameras, big fluffy sound booms) all of which were around her at every angle - including over her head. She was handled by various strange people (actors, wranglers etc) and she did not bat an eyelid. She stood perfectly all day and did exactly what was required of her by anyone who asked. Everyone was astounded by how calm and wonderful she is and were all asking about the breed of pony, so of course the New Forests have been given a BIG wrap.

Personality wise, Odette has 2 definite modes, 'on' and 'off'. As soon as she has done what is required of her she switches 'off' and looks like a poor substitute for Simpson's donkey. Once she leaves the ring it is almost impossible to stand her up for a photo no matter how much grass/hats/jackets are thrown she is in 'off' mode. Come to the television, on cue she collects herself, pricks her ears and is 'on'! Quite remarkable.

You can see that Odette is a special pony in that she is so versatile and gives great pleasure to so many people. It is wonderful to see "The Team" working together and sharing her so harmoniously. Besides just being the most gorgeous pony some of her major achievements have been:

1999 APSB Stud Show

Reserve Champion Ridden M & M Pony
Champion New Forest Female

2000 RAS Summer Show

Champion New Forest Pony Mare
Reserve Champion M & M Pony Ridden

2000 APSB Stud Show

Champion New Forest Mare

2002 Geelong Ag Show

Champion Mountain & Moorland
Exhibit

2002 Berwick Ag Show

Champion New Forest Pony

2003 Berwick Ag Show

Reserve Champion M & M Mare
Reserve Champion Led Any Other
Breed

2004 RAS Summer Show

Champion New Forest Pony

2004 Berwick Ag Show

Champion Led M & M Pony

2005 RAS Summer Show

Champion Led NF Pony

Reserve Champion Ridden M & M Pony

2005 APSB Stud Show

Reserve Champion Led NF Pony Mare
or Filly

2005 Berwick Show

Champion Led M & M Pony Mare

2006 NFPAA Barastoc

Reserve Champion Ridden NF Mare

2006 Aust Sports Pony Register

Grading

71.96% - Highest conformation score
in Australia for 2006 Grading

2006 Daylesford Ag Show

Champion Mountain and Moorland

2006 National Buckskin Soc 26th

Annual All Breeds Show

Reserve Champion Led Registered
Pony Exhibit

2007 RAS Summer Show

Champion New Forest Pony

2007 APSB Stud Show

Champion Ridden Show Hunter M & M

2007 Native Pony Show

Champion New Forest Mare

Supreme Led New Forest Pony

Champion and Reserve Ridden New
Forest Mare

2007 APSB Barastoc

Champion New Forest Pony Mare

Grand Champion New Forest Pony

2007 NFPAA Barastoc

Best Section B over 13.2h In-Hand

New Forest Mare 4 yrs & over

Reserve Champion Senior New Forest
Pony

1st Working Hunter Pony M & M

Ponies 13 - 14h

Best Section B over 13.2h Ridden New

Forest Mare

Reserve Champion Ridden M & M
Mare

2007 NFPOB Navigation Ride

Best Performed New Forest Junior

Section

Forestway Odette:
RAS Summer Royal 2007
Native Pony Show 2007
Working Hunter Class
Barastoc 2007

