



Member Profile

Jan McBain

What year were you born?
Long long ago

What town were you born in?
Melbourne

Where did you grow up?
Berwick district

How influential were your parents regarding Pony's?
My parents bought 13.2hh ponies for my sister and me when we were 6 & 8.
Johnnie Moore and Squish Stead and Eileen Coffey taught us to ride. My father had a top winning show hack in the fifties so he rode with us and took us to shows all over Gippsland.

What was your first ponies' name?
Peewee

What is your favourite Pony photo?
1. My father on a stock pony when inspecting the High Country prior to the ban on cattle grazing.
2. My sister jumping a fence at Brunts Crossing, Melbourne Hunt Club, riding her noted jumping pony Hi Ho. She had just been submerged in the creek.

What is your favourite pony you have bred?
Pahake Royal Premiere

What is the proudest moment you have had with a Pony?
Winning Supreme Champion Australian pony at Dandenong show in 1971 with our imported New Forest stallion, Broadlands Bright Seraphin. The very brave judge was Bert Whelpton who was looking for more height and bone.

What is the most embarrassing moment you have had with a Pony?
At Expo 1975 at Adelaide, our stallion, Peveril Prophet, calmly removed his bridle while grazing near the ring. We didn't notice until he was well away, still happily grazing.

What is the toughest problem you have ever faced with a pony?
Having to euthanase a pony due to injury or old age.

What haven't you done yet that you would like to do with your ponies?
Win a jumping or dressage event overseas.

Who were some of the influential people in your life with ponies?
Dressage instructor, June James, buck jump rider, Pat Keneally, my father, Bill Officer and Pop Strong, former head groom, The Nook stud, Nagambie.

What was the greatest piece of advice ever given to you regarding ponies?
Never fully trust even the quietest pony. They can all get a fright and forget you are there.

Advice you would give regarding ponies to other people?
Have them schooled correctly to be as safe as possible and don't over feed.

How did you move from owning or riding a pony to breeding ponies?
My sister's pony, Ahpee, was sent to an arab stallion called Deisha, owned by the ex mounted policeman, Tom Coffey. The resultant foal (Gamin) was broken in by us simply getting on him, then ridden and hunted by both of us. I suppose Pop Strong must have helped us mouth him. Gamin used

to follow us all over the Berwick district so he had seen it all before we ever rode him.

Tell us the story of your journey of breeding ponies?
Got all day??? In the early 60's I bought some unbroken APSB ponies at a sale at Lovely Banks. They were VERY wild and basically of Welsh blood. Too frightened to ever become safe kids ponies. I was buying and selling a few and came across a black mare, Green Valley Gipsy. She was still in George Freeman's name but he was willing to transfer her to me. She was in foal to Geroa Dandy. Her grey foal Pahake Peg, was my first APSB reg. pony. Born in November 1968, Peg was a delight to handle and break in.

When did you first become a member of the APSB and register your stud?
1967

How did your stud name come about?
My stud was initially called Pahake, being the name of my ex-mother law's property in New Zealand, meaning "Chief's House on a Hill". I changed to my present stud name of Forestway when my partnership of breeding New Forests with Alison Charlton ceased. The name reflects our breeding of New Forest ponies.

Can you remember the first pony you ever bred?
Yes, with my sister, the part arab, Gamin.

Have you changed breeds from when you began?
I started with Australian registered but basically Welsh. I found them to be too lively and not suited to beginner riders/small children. We scoured Australia looking for a large Aussie stallion but none were available. This is why we imported our first New Forest in 1969.

What does the APSB mean to you?
A group of people dedicated to promoting ponies to not just children but also for smaller adults.

Where do you see the APSB in the future?
Challenged by all the other registering bodies of colours, types etc. I do not believe that any more breeds should be admitted to the stud book, particularly ones that are basically horses or used as draught animals in their country of origin.

What change in the APSB has brought about the most positive/negative change that you have seen?
The recognition of part bred and riding ponies was too late and has seen a huge migration of members away from the APSB. The policy of only allowing crosses to Welsh in the Australian section has had the inevitable result in smaller ponies and loss of the bigger 13.2hh – 14hh ponies.

Where do you see pony breeds in general in the future?
The recognition of pony dressage will be a boon so long as true performance ponies come forward.
Too many ponies are being bred to just be led about. The whole point of breeding is to produce ponies fit to be ridden or driven. Many adults prefer to drive ponies rather than big horses.

What do you think has helped make you successful?
By consistently producing ponies that live up to our motto of "not just a pretty face, but capable of performing in any sphere".

What successes have you had over the years?
Supreme champions at all major Victorian shows. Placings at National combined driving events.

What role do you think the following organisations play in relation to the APSB?

Pony Club ---Nowhere near enough effort has been made to recognise registered ponies at junior level. This is why I have strongly advocated for junior membership to capture these kids.

Agricultural Shows--- Still major confusion about how schedules are worded and what is an Australian pony.

Pony Dressage--- Not enough support from the APSB. The ASPR had a major influence in having ponies accepted by the EFA, by lobbying ministers.

Trail Riding--- Not my scene anymore. I've been kicked and crashed into too often by reefering, crazy horses.

Adult Riding--- Not many ponies attend, but I had great success with my stallion, Forestway Royal Ascot. Grading is according to ability of the combination.

Olympic Dressage--- Most Olympians ride warm bloods or TB. I do know of two para- Olympians who prepared by using ponies.

EFA/EA (Equestrian Australia)—This could get nasty if we are forced to become members. The fees are huge.

RAS (Royal Agricultural Society)--- Seem to be prepared to provide classes

Royal Shows---Ditto

Stud Show--- The committee must listen to any suggestions from members and provide what the members want (within reason).

Harness Racing--- I suppose there must be some reg. Shetlands doing pony trots.

Thoroughbred Racing--- One of our ponies was ridden for years at Flemington by the Clerk of Course and another went to the races as a support for a crazy TB.

Judges Panel Changes

The following people have been placed on the Victorian Judges Provisional Panel.

Ruth Feltoe

Australian, APSB Part-Bred, APSB Riding Pony

Kelly Hamblin

Australian, Welsh, APSB Part-Bred, APSB Riding Pony, Saddle

Filipa Marshall

Australian, Shetland, APSB Part-Bred, APSB Riding Pony, Saddle

Are you on the Victorian Judges Panel?

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full panel or the provisional
panel.***

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