



World Arabian Horse Organization

# WAHO 2019 CONFERENCE AUSTRALIA







story and photos by Gudrun Waiditschka

### ***The Conference***

*For this year's WAHO Conference, the hosts, the Arab Horse Society of Australia (AHSa), had chosen the small coastal town of Terrigal, North of Sydney. This way, one could easily visit Sydney and the East Coast Arabian Championship ahead of the conference.*

*The actual conference was attended by representatives of 27 WAHO Member countries, including applying Member China, which will soon become a member once the studbook is accepted, and the Associate members Asil Club (Germany), Al Khamsa and The Arabian Horse Foundation (both USA), and the Arabian Horse Breeders Association of Argentina. The long journey and the resulting costs have thus clearly reflected in the number of members present. Also,*

*some intended delegates were unfortunately unable to obtain visas.*

*Leonie Williamson, chairwoman of the AHSa, welcomed all participants and guests to this third WAHO conference in Australia, after hosting this event in 1984 and 2000. She introduced the new book, "Hoofprints in History", and referred to the 230-year history of the Arabian horse on this continent.*

*WAHO President Peter Pond then officially opened the conference. He referred to the unique characteristic of the Arabian horse, to bring people together, so they can exchange and consult with each other. It is said in an Egyptian proverb: "He can see only his own face by using one mirror. By using two, he can see all that is hidden behind." To look at*



Leonie Williamson,  
chairwoman of the AHSA,



Sami Al Nohait, member of the EC

Brita Axelsson and Rolf Axelsson, Sweden, Mr. Amir Mardini, Syria, M.T. Tabernal and Herman van der Vorm, The Netherlands, Remazan Kaya, Turkey, Sheila Morgan, Anne Unwin and Joe Denham, United Kingdom, Hanna-Luise (Hansi) Heck-Melnyk and Dorothy Stream, USA,

#### New Members

Several different countries that have small Arabian horse populations but have not (yet) established their own studbook, applied for membership since the last conference, or for approval that existing WAHO approved studbooks will take care of their horses.

One of these countries is **Albania**. A larger number of horses were exported in the 1950s and 1960s from Tersk Stud in Russia to

Albania for the local National Stud. These horses are known to WAHO and they have interesting Aswan-free pedigrees. The fact that these horses and their descendants survived the difficult climate and management conditions speaks for their hardiness. In 1996 there were about 30 horses left, derived from these Russian horses and one stallion from Bâbolna. Again, the WAHO has all the pedigrees. But then the national stud was closed and in the year 2000 there were about 30 horses in the hands of private breeders, the biggest breeder was an ex-army officer with eight mares and three stallions, who bred in a small style. One may assume that a few offspring from the original nucleus are still alive, and investigations are currently underway to find them. In recent years, more horses were imported by private individuals,

things from all angles is the reason why dialogue with others is so important – and WAHO has been following this motto since its inception.

The President informed the Assembly that the Executive Committee (EC) has decided to grant Sami Al Nohait the “Emeritus” status in appreciation of his long service to WAHO, while recognizing that he may not be able to attend EC meetings in the foreseeable future due to health reasons. With a minute’s silence, the meeting honoured the deceased personal members of WAHO of the last two years: Maria Helena (Lenita) Ribeiro Perroy, Brazil, Dr. Nasr Marei and Wegdan (Dani) El Barbary, Egypt, Gerd Seidensticker, Germany, Kevin Cholmondeley-Smith and Belinda Simons, New Zealand, Dr. Manuel Domingues-Helena, Portugal,



especially from Italy. Today there are about 60 Arabian purebreds in Albania. The EC has therefore proposed that the Italian association ANICA take over the registration of the Albanian horses until the Albanian breeders have established their own studbook and WAHO has approved it. This was unanimously agreed by the delegates.

The Arabian horse populations in the three countries Bosnia-Herzegovina, Montenegro and North Macedonia also do not yet have any Arabian studbook organisation. Most horses, about 30, are in **Bosnia-Herzegovina**. These are imports from existing WAHO-approved studbooks from Poland, the Netherlands, Germany, Croatia, France and Serbia, as well as some foals born in the country. WAHO already has the documentation of most of these horses.

Breeders in both **Montenegro** and **The Republic of North Macedonia** recently asked WAHO for support in starting studbooks. Again, there are a few imported Arabs in each country. It should be noted in this regard that if horses are exported from a WAHO approved country to a non-WAHO

country, the export certificate must be sent to WAHO.

**North Macedonia** has a similar situation as Montenegro. The EC has proposed that BAPS (Belgium) take over registration in these three countries until they have their own WAHO-approved studbooks. This application was also accepted unanimously.

Since 2002, the horses in Bolivia were registered by the Brazilian Studbook. But in 2013 Brazil cancelled this agreement. The horses have since been identified and registered by the Ministry of Agriculture, and efforts have been made since 2018 to establish their own stud book. The EC is confident that this will be achieved in the coming months, and therefore proposes that the future association be recognized in advance and accepted as a full member once the studbook has been published and approved by the EC. This request was agreed unanimously.

**Ukraine** has also applied for membership. From a historical point of view, Ukraine has a long history in Arabian breeding, because here were the large Polish studs



*Bialocerkiew, Slawuta, Gumniska and Antoniny. In 1976, a large number of horses were imported from Russia and bred in the State Stud Yagolitsa henceforth. Until the end of the Soviet Union, these horses were registered in Russia (RASB). When this arrangement ended, the Ukrainian breeders were "in a vacuum". A similar situation also existed earlier in Lithuania, Estonia, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan, all now are WAHO Member countries in their own right. About eight years ago, there were various contacts with Ukrainian breeders, who fell asleep again. Since 2018 there is a new contact. It is estimated that there are about 45 Arabians alive in Ukraine, and about 10 foals per year are bred. Private breeders have imported horses from Bialka Stud in Poland and from Russia in recent years. The main focus is on equitation (endurance). All horses are identified and in accordance with WAHO rules. The EC has therefore requested that Ukraine be recognized as an Applying Registering Authority Member and, as soon as the Studbook is available and approved, Ukraine will become a full Member. This request was approved unanimously. Last but not least, the President announced that **Belize** had requested to retire its Membership for economic reasons. WAHO is currently looking for a member country that can take over the registration as "caretaker".*

### **Election of Consultants of the EC**

*According to the changes of the constitution, which were approved at the last annual general meeting in Babrain in 2017, this year, for the first time in the history of the WAHO, elections to the advisory board of the Executive Committee were scheduled. Four candidates had been nominated by the national organisations, but one has withdrawn his candidacy so that only Karsten Scherling, Germany, Nathalie Weemaels, Ecuador, and Dr. Ing. Mohammed Abdul-Aziz Al-Nujaifi, Iraq were left. Al-Nujaifi could not be present in person.*

*Those candidates present were invited to introduce themselves personally to the members:*

*Born in Belgium, **Nathalie Weemaels** emigrated to Ecuador after studying agricultural science to protect the Amazon, its rainforest and indigenous peoples. In the following years she acted as advisor to the Ecuadorian government and various ministries. From 2009 to 2015, she was President of the Ecuadorian Arabian Horse Breeders Association, focusing on public relations and collaboration with other associations, and she is still the registrar. She is also an endurance rider, and participated twice in the World Championships, e.g. in Tryon. She is president of the Endurance Riders' Association and member of the Executive Committee of the Ecuadorian National Equestrian Federation. She hopes that the willingness to reform endurance as a sport is growing, with WAHO also playing a role, as President Pond had already tried two years ago in his letter to the FEI. In addition to animal welfare, her main focus is on maintaining the riding qualities of the Arabian horse. As a registrar, she also sees the need to find ways to keep the endurance horses registered in the studbook, because without, some of the best endurance horses will lose their breed identity, and their genes will be lost to purebred Arabian breeding.*

***Karsten Scherling** from Germany had first contacts with the Arabian horse in 1978 through his girlfriend, who owned an Arabian foal, and with WAHO which held its conference in Hamburg at that time. In the meantime, his girlfriend became his wife, and his first WAHO conference in Hamburg were followed by many more. The Scherlings breed Arabian horses out of passion and without ulterior financial motives, just like 98% of the German breeders. After his first contact with WAHO, 20 years passed before he attended a conference again, from then on he had tried to explain the WAHO topics to other breeders at home. In this way, he was also involved with the VZAP, and advised*



**Nathalie Weemaels, Ecuador,**  
new Consultant of the EC



**Karsten Scherling, Germany,**  
new Consultant of the EC



**Peter Pond, President of WAHO**





**Robert Fauls, member of the EC**



**Ron Males, observer and endurance legend**

the Board on subjects such as genetic diseases, database, website, etc. Karsten Scherling works as a Digital Electronic Engineer and IT Project Manager, and would like to use his experience as a consultant for WAHO.

President Pond explained that the consultants will be elected for four years. During this time, they will be observed and evaluated by the EC and, if appropriate, admitted to the EC. If there is no need for new EC members, the consultancy activity ends automatically after four years. Nathalie Weemaels was elected with 37 votes, Karsten Scherling was elected with 17. Al-Nujaiifi accounted for 14 votes.

Criticism has been voiced by some Arab countries that with this procedure the change in the EC towards a democratically elected EC would not be fast enough. Peter Pond defended the procedure, which was implemented only two years ago and now comes to fruition for the first time. He points out that WAHO has benefited from continuity in leadership over the

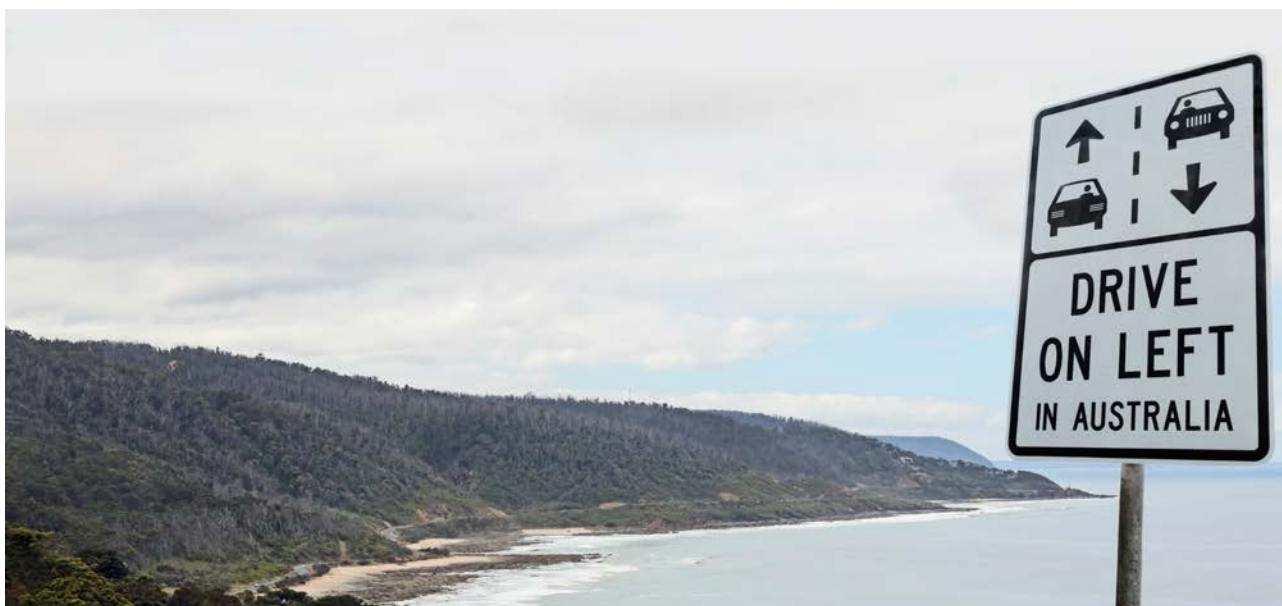
last 50 years, and rapid changes in the board are often detrimental. He emphasized that the tasks of WAHO are the registration and studbook management, not other activities such as racing, shows, etc. The great merit of WAHO is that when importing and exporting horses everyone can be sure that a horse from a WAHO recognized studbook will be registered in the WAHO-recognized studbook of any other country – that was not the case before the establishment of WAHO.

### **Reports from around the World**

It is common for every Member present to give a report on the development of Arab horse breeding in his country. This includes the number of foals born, but also activities such as shows, races, endurance rides, etc.

If you take a look at the foals registered per year, the USA is still the largest breeders nation. Saudi Arabia follows in second place with a difference of 150 foals; It should be remembered that the US figures have been dropping for years, while the Arab countries, and Saudi Arabia in particular, are steadily growing. The statistics show that since 2010 the Arab countries have had very large, sometimes astronomical growth rates: Kuwait had an increase of more than 950%, Oman about 700%, Saudi Arabia 334%. The absolute numbers of the “Top Ten Breeding Countries” can be found in Table 1. Germany is ranked 14th in this statistic (and thus outside the table).

If you look at it from a global perspective, Arabian horse breeding increased by 15% between 2010 and 2017. This increase is due solely to the Arab countries. In total, 25,995 foals were registered in 2017, including 11,156 (43%) in Arab countries (35% in 2015), 5,788 (22%) foals were born



in Europe (2015: 23%) and 3,335 (13%) foals in North America (2015: 14%).

One country that has been accepted to the last conference as a new member, subject to the requirement that they submit a studbook, is China, which is not included in the statistics above. There are about 270 Arabian horses already located in China, most imported from the US and Europe. In 2018, the first show was held in Beijing, and there are also endurance rides. Last year, the stallion Gallardo J, was presented to Chinese President Xi Jinping by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. This has greatly boosted Chinese interest in Arabian horses.

### **Modern reproduction techniques**

Again and again breeders are approaching WAHO to limit the number of embryo transfers per mare per year for animal welfare reasons. President Pond explained the current situation with regard to this technique.

It all started many years ago, when WAHO essentially opened the door and allowed the registration of foals received by artificial insemination. The door was opened a little further when fresh and frozen semen were available. A little further then allowed to use the semen of a stallion after his death, and so on. Apart from some complications in the administration, artificial insemination is no problem at all. Then Embryo Transfer was added. This method is becoming increasingly popular with breeders in some countries and it is becoming more and more complicated in terms of paperwork required by the studbooks. Especially with the international movement of recipient mares with ET foals, the sale of embryos, etc.

Because of this, WAHO's minimum rule for these methods has inevitably evolved over the years, and Peter Pond emphasized that every WAHO member (studbook organisation) has the full right to allow or not allow artificial insemination, imported and exported semen, and to allow or not allow the use of embryo transfer in their area of responsibility. However, it is a mandatory WAHO rule that imported horses that have been bred using these methods must be registered.

What is increasingly worrisome for the EC and what is critically considered by many members and individual breeders around the world is the number of foals per mare produced by embryo transfer.

The WAHO Rule in question reads as follows: "Registering Authorities may, at their discretion or following legal advice, chose to place a specified number of limit of foals that they would register per donor mare and year according to the laws and culture of that country. They may also at their discretion allow multiple foals per donor mare."

The only reason why WAHO allowed the studbook organizations to opt for no limit was the risk that a breeder might sue the studbook for trade restrictions if it does not register those foals. At the last two or three WAHO conferences, the EC has repeatedly pointed out that overproduction

through unlimited ET foals per mare per year not only has adverse effects on the donor mares themselves, but also on the wellbeing of the foals and on the entire sales market.

On the other hand, no studbook or association can prevent a breeder from doing what he wants to do with his property, his broodmares. It could also be dangerous to set a limit if only the best foals are registered and those who do not meet expectations are discarded or even killed. Something that is already happening, as the EC has learned to its horror.

The better news is that the practice shows that many countries that theoretically allow an unlimited number of foals per mare per year to avoid a potential court case, have no breeders who actually do that. But after this Pandora's box has been opened, how can you close it again?

Basically, most people involved agree that two foals per mare per year are an acceptable number, as occasionally twins are born and survive. But you can not turn back the clock and introduce a limit afterwards. Therefore, WAHO strongly recommends that the associations use all available channels to inform educate breeders about this issue.

### **Online-Studbooks**

The WAHO World Registrars Meeting had already taken place the day before the conference to discuss important developments and submit them to the EC for approval, which in turn may present it to the General Meeting. The first point concerned the modalities of publication of studbooks. For cost reasons, there are hardly any printed stud books anymore, most associations therefore publish their studbook as a PDF, on CD-ROM or as an online database. While the PDF is content wise identical to a printed studbook, which can then be distributed on CD-ROM, the requirements for an online studbook are more complex. An online studbook must contain various data, e.g. breed name, name of the horse, breeder, etc., other data are optional such as markings, mare families / strains, etc. Offspring and performance records can be added in a separate area by link. The online studbook needs to be kept up-to-date, any changes to horses already in the database must be timely. Online studbooks must include all horses that are eligible for registration and are within the jurisdiction of the relevant breed association. Only one WAHO Registering Authority Member per country is allowed.

### **Gene doping and genetic engineering**

The second point concerned recent developments in the field of gene doping and gene manipulation. The World Anti-Doping Agency defines gene doping as "the non-therapeutic use of cells, genes, genetic elements or the influence of gene expression with the ability to increase performance." In molecular biology gene doping is the introduction of DNA or RNA -Molecules in an organism. For example, scientists succeeded in cutting out the gene which is normally responsible for suppressing excessive muscle growth. Without this gene, these transgenic mice have developed four times more muscles.

It is feared, that **genetic modification, also known as gene**



**Coralie Gordon** - guest speaker  
"A long Way from Home" The history  
of the Arabian horse in Australia



**Allen Preston** - guest speaker "The History  
of the Arabian Derivative in Australia"



**David Gillet** - guest speaker "Arabian horses  
in Australia" The more recent history

**editing, which is done at the embryo stage, and gene doping which is generally done at a later stage after the foal is born, at any stage in the horse's life, have the potential to cause damage to our horses individually and to our breed in general.**

The racing and sport horse authorities such as the I.S.B.C. and F.E.I are equally concerned. **Several laboratories and genetic scientists are also working hard to develop new tests to detect altered genes.**

Recently, a Buenos Aires-based laboratory known for cloning horses announced that it had produced genetically engineered embryos for the first time. By means of "biological scissors" (CRISPR), the myostatin gene sequence was cut out. They expected that this type of "genetic processing" would positively influence the muscle growth, as in the transgenic mice, and therefore enhance endurance and speed of the resulting foal. Although this technique has so far only been performed on cloned horse embryos – and cloning is strictly prohibited in the Arabian horses – but in order not to lag behind scientific progress, the following regulation was adopted in a forward-looking manner:

1. It is a mandatory WAHO rule that any Arabian horse of any age which has been subject to any form of genetic modification at the embryo stage or later must not be registered under any circumstances.
  2. It is a mandatory WAHO rule that the progeny of any Arabian horse which was subject to any form of genetic modification at the embryo stage or later must not be registered under any circumstances..
  3. It is a mandatory WAHO rule that any Arabian horse of any age which has been conceived using genetically modified gametes must not be registered under any circumstances.
  4. It is a mandatory WAHO rule that any progeny of any Arabian horse which was conceived using genetically modified gametes must not be registered under any circumstances.
- Incidentally, the FEI has already decided to ban any kind of

gene doping in the horse, i.e. horses that have been genetically engineered in any way will not be recognized and will not be allowed in sport competitions.

### **New EU regulation**

Xavier Guibert informed about a new EU regulation as of 1 November 2018 on the import into EU Member states of breeding horses and their germinal products from third countries. Accordingly, only those which are from stud books that are listed on a list by the EU can be imported into the EU (European Animal Breeding Regulation (VO (EU) 2016/1012)). This has the potential to seriously impact international trade in equines. WAHO is writing to all its 'third country' Members to inform that what they need to do to be added to this list.

### **Guest Speakers**

This year's WAHO conference was notable for a series of excellent guest speakers:

**Coralie Gordon** took the listeners on a journey into the past of the Arabian horse, from its first arrival in Australia in the early 19th century, introducing the first known breeders such as Henry Dangar and his brothers, Sir James Penn Boucaut, Mrs. Dora Maclean, Elwyn Bligh and her daughter, and many more. Many of these early breeders imported horses from Crabbet Park in England, others came directly from the Arabian peninsula, or via India. Not least because of the climate and the vastness of the country, the Australian breeders were able to breed superb endurance horses and the Tom Quilty ride is still the highlight of their endurance season.

**David Gillet** continued with the more recent bloodlines that had been added to these English and Colonial lines. Those which are thoroughly established in Australia are the Polish lines, for example through Milex (by Excelsior), who became known as a sire in endurance circles, and Ambition (by





Prof. Chris Whitton - guest speaker  
"Equine Limb Injury Prevention"



Julie Fiedler - guest speaker "When Social  
Media gallops ahead"



Xavier Guibert, member of the EC

Bask). Later many others were added.

The first Egyptian-related horses came to Australia, back in 1970 with the filly Naadirah (Aswan / Napraslina). The first Straight Egyptians were the stallions Raadin Royal Star (by ET Crown Prince), who was the sire of Simeon Shai, and Sankt Georg, the sire of Simeon Safanad. The Spanish influence came with Simeon Sa'ar and Amir El Shaklan, both by El Shaklan and out of Marbach-bred mares. Later several El Shaklan related stock was imported. Other lines, such as the Russians, played a minor role.

**Allan Preston** explained the 9 Arabian related breeds, called "Derivatives", such as Arabian Pony, Arabian Warmblood, Arabian Riding Pony, Quarab etc. which AHSA have registered for many decades. This forward-thinking initiative brought income, membership expansion and introduced new owners to purebred Arabians. Through its superb Derivative breeds Australia has maximised the bloodlines, use and popularity of the Pure Arabian horse like no other country in the world today – an example many other countries could benefit by copying.

**Dr. Madeleine Campbell's video lecture** was on the welfare and ethical issues of assisted reproduction technologies. Some may have welfare benefits, such as AI and shipped semen with less chance of injury and transmitting infectious disease, although AI does inhibit natural behaviours. It is usually well tolerated by the mares, as is non-surgical embryo transfer. But collecting oocytes is known to be painful for the mare and the effect of repeated use of hormones to get several embryos in a year is also not well researched. As regards genetic modification, she said that any damage to equine embryos which may cause pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm to the resulting foals should be a matter of ethical and welfare concern. It was particularly interesting to note her remark, that "Arabian breeders are not afraid of airing and discussing difficult issues. That makes you rare amongst horse breeders."

**Dr. Chris Whitton** explained how bone fatigue happens

in race and endurance horses when subjected to repeated high loads. He emphasized that injuries are not random events out of our control, and that horses in training and competition accumulate bone damage. Risk factors are too many kilometres and high speeds. However, bone material is highly dynamic and in the right training environment even for young horses can adapt to increase its resistance to injury. If damage has occurred, periods of rest from training are essential to repair any damage and prolong the sporting career of the horses.

**Cindy Reich** introduced several more or less known procedures before and after the birth of a foal, e.g. the milk calcium test to predict the time of delivery, the neonatal isoerythrolysis test for any incompatibility of the foal with the colostrum, the IgG test, to see if the foal gets enough immunoglobulin from the colostrum. Especially interesting and new to many was the Madigan Squeeze Technique for reviving dummy foals, which we were able to practice later with a large toy foal. Various ways to wean a foal concluded the presentation.

**Julie Fiedler** gave a lecture on the effect of social media with regards to horses, welfare and social license. In social media, horse sports are often under attack from the public. Social media can ruin the reputation of a sport, incur financial burden to repair trust, it can cause loss of spectators, sponsors, etc., and may lead to a sport governing body or even government to intervene. Horse sport therefore should be pro-active, e.g. find ways to make horse welfare decisions more quickly and build a relationship with the public to strengthen its own resilience.

The last announcement, before President Peter Pond closed the meeting, came from Princess Alia Al Hussein, who invited WAHO to held the next Conference in 2021 in Jordan. The sustained applause showed clearly that everyone is looking forward to meet again in Amman! □



## Stud visits during the Conference

### **Simeon Stud**

Paradise lies behind a huge hedge – at least in Australia. Here, in Dural, in the outskirts of Sydney, lies nestled behind a hedge Simeon Stud, Australia's biggest and most prominent studfarm for Straight Egyptian Arabians. Entering the gate, the pastures and paddocks lie right and left of the drive way, dotted with horses. Even on a day like this, when the WAHO guests are awaited, this place is filled with peace and serenity.

Since 1956, Ruth and Peter Simon, with daughter Marion Richmond, are breeding here purebred Arabian horses. And although they actually started off with the chestnut mare Fuewasa \*1942 of English bloodlines, Simeon Stud later became the synonym of Straight Egyptian breeding in Australia.



Marion Richmond

### **The Imports**

It was in the 1970s to early 1980s, after the two Straight Egyptian Stallions Raadin Royal Star (ET Crown Prince / Om Khamsa) and Sankt Georg RSI (Ansata El Salim / Bint El Bataa) came to Australia, when Marion Richmond got fascinated by these bloodlines and shifted her breeding program towards Egyptian bloodlines. She set out to seek similar horses in Europe and purchased two Aswan daughters (Novina and Nadira), a Kaisoon daughter (Mohema), a Hadban Enzahi daughter (Damirah) and a liver chestnut filly by the name of 27

Ibn Galal-5 (Ibn Galal / 10 Hosna) from Babolna Stud in Hungary. Only the Ibn Galal and Kaisoon daughters were Straight Egyptians, the others were of mixed bloodlines, so the course for a Straight Egyptian breeding program had not yet been finalized. However, these mares had a







**Simeon Sasur**  
(Simeon Sahron / Simeon Shiraz) \*2014



**Simeon Seis (Imperial Madaar / Simeon Se) \*2010**



**Simeon Susula**  
(Simeon Samech / Simeon Sanaa) \*2010

significant impact on the development of the Arabian horse breeding in Australia. For example, the Marbach-bred Damirah (Hadban Enzabi / Hamdi) \*1975, was exported from Germany to England, while El Shaklan was there on lease to the Maxwell family. After this "stop-over" she came pregnant to Australia, where she gave birth to Simeon Sa'ar, a stallion that became a National Champion in Australia, and produced countless Champions, including Simeon Sanegor, born in 1981. The latter was sold to Joda Park Arabians and from there exported to the USA. In both countries he had a significant show record and influence as sire.

The two Russian-bred Aswan fillies had to remain in Europe due to Piroplasmosis, and only their offspring were imported to Australia, among them Simeon Savion by Ansata Abbas Pasha. The German-bred Mohema was directly imported to Australia, where she had six foals, of which Simeon Sasson was sold to the USA. Without any doubt, the Babolna-bred mare 27 Ibn Galal-5 (often wrongly written as 27 Ibn Galal V) \*1974, was the most successful of the lot, and the only one whose line is still maintained at Simeon Stud until today – actually, it is the

biggest mare family today, with about 30 members. Additionally to these mares the stallions Asfour, Anaza Bay Shabb and Imperial Madaar were imported. Asfour (Jamil / Hanan) \*1984 of Dr. Nagel's breeding was sold to Marion Richmond in 1985 and developed into her foundation stallion. Most of the present broodmares carry his blood, often not just once. Asfour offered outstanding refined type with huge eyes, fine nostrils, small ears and lots of charisma, he also had fine black skin and exceptional movements. The fleabitten grey died in 2009 at the age of 25 and had left close to 150 foals. Imperial Madaar (Imperial Madbeen / Ansata Nile Mist) arrived in 1987 from the US and added height and length of body, while US-bred Anaza Bay Shabb (Sheikh Al Badi / Bint Deenaa) gave body conformation with excellent hips, legs and feet; his blood can still be found in some of the mares, e.g. his daughters, the beautiful Simeon Sheva and Simeon Shavit. Today's chief sire Simeon Shanun has all three foundation stallions in his pedigree in three successive generations.

More recently, the stallions Immesmerize and Mulay Ibn Maareesa were imported. Through his sire Imtaarif, Immesmerize, who was imported from the US, tails back



**Simeon Sheva**  
(Anaza Bey Shabb / Simeon Simone) \*2008



**Simeon Shifran**  
(Asfour / Simeon Shavit) \*2007



**Immesmerize (US)**  
(Imtaarif / Bint Mareekh Amir) \*2004





**Simeon Sahia (Simeon Shifran / Simeon Sehora) \*2014**



**Simeon Saada (Asfour / Simeon Safanad) \*1990**

to Bint Deenaa, the dam of Anaza Bay Shabb, and a mare highly valued by Marion Richmond. The fleabitten grey stallion has a long, elegant neck and adds elegance to his offspring, as well as black skin.

Mulay Ibn Maareesa (Ansata Amir Zaman / Maareesa) \*1995 was imported from Germany in 2011, and actually, Marion had imported his daughter CM Moussameh \*1998 before him and was very happy with her, so she started to look for more of her bloodlines. When the opportunity arose to lease the stallion, Marion did not hesitate and three years later even bought him. Six of his daughters are presently retained for the stud.

### **The Mare Families**

A stud, however, would be nothing without the mares! As mentioned before, the most prolific and successful mare family is the one of 27 Ibn Galal-5, a dark liver chestnut mare with a flaxen mane. She was in her younger days an Australian National Champion Mare as was her daughter, Simeon Sukari, and her grand daughters Simeon Salome and Simeon Sehari. The latest addition to this string of successful females is Simeon Sahia (Simeon Shifran / Simeon Sehora) \*2014 who just recently was awarded with the 2019 Australian National Junior Champion title.

Of 27 Ibn Galal's five daughters, three created their own



branches: Simeon Safanad (by Sankt Georg RSI), Simeon Simona (by Asfour), and Simeon Sukari (by Asfour). With US-bred Raadin Royal Star, Safanad brought Simeon Shai (\*1984), a bay stallion who left some 20 foals in Australia, before he was exported to the USA in 1989, where, in 1991, he achieved the titles of US National Champion Stallion, Canadian National Champion Stallion, and Scottsdale Champion Stallion – the American Triple Crown –, as well as World Champion Stallion in Paris. In the US, he sired more than 450 foals, and is one of the horses that spread the fame of his home-stud across the world.

Another ambassador of Simeon-breeding was Simeon Sadik. Pregnant by Asfour, Simeon Safanad gave birth to a pitch black foal called Simeon Sadik, who was sold to Shirley and Charlie Watts of Halsdon Arabians/GB. He was probably the most typey black stallion of his time in Europe, still, he never made it right to the top, always remained “reserve”: 1997 World Reserve Champion Stallion, 2000 European Reserve Champion Stallion, 2000 & 2003 All Nations Cup Reserve Senior Champion Stallion. But regardless of his show results he had a huge number of fans all over the world! Interestingly enough, among his offspring there are also performance horses, e.g. the multi-talented black Caid Jabbar out of an English mare, bred in Switzerland, with accomplishments in dressage and driving, and HS Pirandelo, European Champion of Arabian Sports Horses in Show Jumping. Simeon Saada also belongs here. She is the 29 years old full sister of Simeon Sadik and the grand old mare of Simeon Stud. This lovely old lady was presented as teaser mare for the young boys, a job she did with dignity and grace.

Two more mares shall be mentioned, as they were presented to the WAHO-guests: Firstly, Simeon Susula born in 2010 belongs to the Sukari-branch. She is a powerful, well-moving mare by Simeon Samech, who is out of the above mentioned



Simeon Se (Asfour / Simeon Seda) \*2004

background is Simeon Shoshana (MB Talimaar / MB Masaleena), who carries the blood of Imperial Madheen on her dam's side and as such, the blood of Madkour and Maymoonah from Germany. This line was represented by Simeon Shagah, a very elegant, harmonious young mare by Simeon Shifran.

Marion Richmond has always been very fond of the bloodlines “behind” Asfour and Imperial Madaar such as the stallions Hadban Enzahi, Ghazal, Morafic, and the mare Maymoonah (Hadban Enzahi / Malikah). She travelled Germany extensively in search of these lines and finally found the above mentioned CM Moussameh, and Mussallah (Montasar / Mohebbah Bint Maymoonah) \*1996, two mares that are strongly inbred to Madkour (Morafic / Maisa) and Maymoonah. Bred to Simeon Shifran (by Asfour), Mussallah brought the chestnut filly Simeon Samira, that was shown to the audience at the WAHO Conference stud tour, where she showed her excellent movements.

Even if Simeon Setawi was not bred in Germany, we should consider her belonging to the “German mares”, as her dam Nameeza was bred by Heiner Buschfort. Nameezas sire



Simeon Seifan  
(Simeon Shifran / CM Moussameh) \*2014





**Simeon Shatkin (Anaza Bey Shahh / Simeon Simona) \*2004**

was Idrees, who died too young. However, Marion Richmond admired him and was lucky enough to lease Nameeza and sent her to the UK, to be covered by Simeon Sadik. The resulting filly, Simeon Setavi, was imported to Australia, but – just like her gandsire –, died too early. Through her daughter Simeon Sekhara she lives on at Simeon Stud.

In 2000, Simeon Stud and Albadaia Stud of the late Nasr Marei exchanged horses: From Australia to Egypt travelled Simeon Safir, yet another full sister to Simeon Sadik and Simeon Saadi, together with Simeon Sharav, at the time a yearling colt by Asfour out of Simeon Shuala (of the Ramses Tinah line). In return, Simeon Stud received the beautiful Ibtebag Albadeia, four times Egyptian National Champion, accompanied by Wed Albadeia, who was by Nasr Marei's most favorite stallion Farid Albadeia. Of these lines, Simeon Marei has been retained for the breeding barn.



**Simeon Shagah (Simeon Shifrah / Simeon Shoshana) \*2016**

### **Conclusion and Outlook**

Here, at Simeon Stud we were looking at five generations of homebred horses, and the “type of horse” Marion Richmond is looking for, became evident in front of our eyes – and hopefully will do so also through the photos. It is not an easy task to maintain a stud of this size over the period of 50 and more years, and it can only be done if there is real passion for the Arabian horse. Fortunately, Marion Richmond has never been influenced by fashion – she bred what she liked. And it is refreshing to see that none of her horses were taken “to the extreme”: They are solid, sound mares, with beautiful faces, deep in the chest, with good legs – and judging from their gentle behaviour, when all the WAHO guests invaded their paddocks and pastures – they have a good character, something which is very important to Marion Richmond. □



**Simeon Sahia (Simeon Shifran / Simeon Sehora) \*2014**



**Simeon Shanun (Imperial Madaan / Simeon Safran) \*2011**





### **Mulawa Stud**

*One of the biggest Arabian horse operations in Australia – if not the biggest – is Mulawa Stud. It is subdivided into four facilities: The original part called “Mulawa” is situated in the Berrilee, a suburb of Sydney, not far from Dural. Here, the training and conditioning of the show horses takes place. It is also the venue for presentations – such as for the WAHO guests – and the Mulawa Open Day. Across the road, at “Ambition”, is the performance center, where the sports horses are trained. In the Upper Hunter Valley, the breeding operation is situated at “Alabama”. Here, the broodmares are accommodated, the foals are born and weaned, until they come to the Mulawa training facility. The retired horses and family mounts live in Tasmania.*



**Mares at Mulawa**  
photo by Waiditschka





Aamahni (TS Al Malik / Aliha Bint Nizr) \*2006



Chance to Dance (Magnum Forty Four / Mulawa Chance) \*2004

### ***The Beginnings***

*For almost 50 years, the Farrell family – Greg, Jane and Julie – is running Mulawa stud. They were the pioneers of introducing Polish bloodlines to Australia when they imported the US-bred stallions Ambition (Bask / Bint Ambara), and later Warranty (Aladdin / Wizja). Each stallion made a lasting contribution to Arabian horse breeding in Australia, as they had 100 and more foals each, and inspired many breeders to include Polish bloodlines into their breeding program. Mulawa has also imported several important mares with Polish blood over the years, among them was Euni (Bandos / Eunice), a full sister to Eukaliptus. Euni was imported in foal to Dr Nagels stallion Jamill, producing a chestnut colt named Vision. Vision became a very important sire of his time, including*

*siring the first unanimous Australian Champion Stallion Naavah and he was also the sire of Mulawa Angelique, who is an important damline today.*

*Mulawa's breeding program has produced or owned a total of ten Australian National Champion Mares. The Mulawa stallions were show and breeding stars, such as the aforementioned Warranty (Aladdin / Wizja) and Vision (Jamil / Euni). Later famous showhorse bloodlines followed with Fame Maker R (Fame VF / Inshallah El Shaklan), TS Al Malik (Hello Barich Els / BF Tiffany Select), Magnum Forty Four (Magnum Psyche / WH Nashabna by Bey Shah) and Guiliano (Legacy of Fame / SC Psavannah by Padron's Psyche). Today, the home-bred Mulawa stallions Klass (TS Al Malik / Karmaa), an Australian National Champion in both halter and*

Allegiance MI (Magnum Forty Four / Audacia) \*2009



MI Klassique (Klass / Mustangs Magnum) \*2015





**Vangelis MI (DA Valentino / Always an Angel) \*2016**



**Truth MI (Allegiance MI / DM Mercedes True Love) \*2016**

*under saddle, and Allegiance MI (Magnum Forty Four / Audacia) are the chief sires at Mulawa.*

*Some of the horses, Mulawa is especially proud of, were shown to the WAHO audience, for example Aamahni (by TS Al Malik), a big bold fleabitten grey, who was twice Australian Champion Stallion (both Junior & Senior). He demonstrated outstanding movement, that one would have liked to see under a dressage saddle; Konquest MI (Giuliano / Mulawa Karismaa out of Karmaa), a dark chestnut with powerful movements, just recently sold to China and MI Klassique (Klass / Mustang's Magnum by Magnum Forty Four) who has yet to grow into his sire's hoofprints.*

### **The Mare Families**

*Of the approximately 20 mare families at Mulawa, the one of Karmaa is the most prominent. In 1986, the Farrells bought Karmaa (Kaborr / AN Marieta) from Jay Stream. She produced a number of champions including Mulawa Karismaa (by Magnum Psyche), and super sire Klass. She created her own dynasty and founded the most successful mare family in Australia. To name just a few of the highly successful show horses of this family, there is Klassical Devotion MI (Klass / Mulawa Kiara) who is Australian National Champion and 2017 Ajman Show Gold Senior Mare, and Mulawa Karisma (Magnum Psyche / Karmaa), Australian and East Coast Champion Mare*



**MI Marie (Allegiance MI / Mae Marie) \*2012**



**Karess (Magnum Forty Four / Mulawa Kara Mia MI) \*2007**





**Kharacter MI (Advise MI / Karess) \*2017**  
photo by Waiditschka



**Klass (TS Al Malik / Karmaa) \*2003**  
photo by Waiditschka

and dam of the above mentioned Australian Champion Stallion Konquest MI. Worth mentioning is also the colt Kavalle MI (Gazal Al Shaqab / Karess), who was not only an Australian Champion, but a Canadian Reserve Champion and US Open Reserve Champion Stallion. His dam Karess (Magnum Forty Four / Mulawa Kara Mia Mi) was Australian National Top Ten Senior Mare in 2019. She was shown at the WAHO presentation and this classic bay mare with exceptional movements deserves mentioning here, together with her dam, the Karmaa-daughter Mulawa Kara Mia (by GLF Apollo). Among the stallions that this line produced, there is the son of Karess, Kharacter MI (by Advise), a flashy chestnut with

a certain attitude and recent Australian National Silver Champion Yearling Colt 2019. The already mentioned chief sire Allegiance also belongs to Karmaa's family. Among the mares that were shown to the WAHO guests was Chance To Dance (by Magnum Forty Four) out of Mulawa Chance, the latter a very prolific mare which created her own mare family. Actually, this family tails back to Grojecca \*1974, a Mulawa foundation mare imported in utero from UK. Chance to Dance is a strong, lovely fleabitten grey mare with good movement and the title of Australian National Silver Champion Senior Mare in 2018 to her credit. At Alabama, the breeding facility of Mulawa, we also saw the mare Melody MI (by



**Klassical Fame MI (Klass / Forever Fame) \*2015**



**Konquest MI (Guiliano / Mulawa Karsimaa) \*2010**





**Klassikal Tiara MI (Klass / Mustangs Magnum) \*2017**

*TS Al Malik) tailing back in third generation to Mulawa Chance.*

*Another lovely mare is the chestnut Parada (by Magnum Forty Four), Australian National Champion Senior Mare in 2012, who is tailing back to Dzina (imp. US) \*1972, another foundation mare at Mulawa, just as the filly Klassikal Fame (by Klass) this year's Australian National Gold Champion Junior Filly. Karess, Parada, and Chance to Dance are – among others – ranked "Aristocrat Dams".*

### **Conclusion and Outlook**

*Mulawa always tried to breed beautiful and functional horses, developed from a core of Polish horses imported in the 1970s. They produced champions, both in halter and*



**Kommand MI (Klass / Mustangs Magnum) \*2014**

*under saddle, in endurance and racing. While linebreeding with Polish blood, other lines such as Egyptian, Spanish and Crabbet were used for outcross, to get the hybrid vigour. Many lines have been introduced to Australia thanks to Mulawa, which were not available before, such as Bask, Aladdin, Padron, Jamill, Bandos, Kaborr, Grojec, and Rames Fayek among others. All of them have been sought out and utilised within the Mulawa breeding program to create beautiful, versatile athletes that will give pleasure to their owners, wherever they are. □*



**Mulawa Kara Mia MI (GLF Apollo / Karmaa) \*1995**



**Parada (Magnum Forty Four / Presence) \*2007**



## Hunter Valley

A two-days-trip to the Hunter Valley was also on the agenda. The Hunter Valley North of Sydney is horse and wine lovers heaven! It probably has the highest studfarm density anywhere in the world, only paralleled by Kentucky with the one difference: All fences here are black. Most of the studfarms are for English TB, like Godolphin, our first stop, which is owned by Sh. Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum in the UAE, who has never set foot on this property. More impressive was Widdon stud, owned by one and the same family for more than 150 years and snuggled into a valley next to a National Park. These studs live mainly by the stud fee of their stallions and have something like 1200 visiting mares, and a stud fee ranging from 10.000 to 100.000 AUS\$. Big Business!

