

# Tribute to a CHAMPION

## Hazelwood Romance

Story by Judy Field

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## A Brilliant Career

The name Hazelwood Romance conjures up an image of a lovely bay mare with the look that epitomised athleticism. Sired by the great Romeo out of Cardonis Breeze, Romance is part of a small group of outstanding mares that will go down in history as legends of the Australian Stock Horse breed.

Her dam, Cardonis Breeze was originally owned by Clem Barnett. Her sire was Just Fred and she originated from the Haydon Rose family of horses. Alan Hamilton from Wee Waa NSW admired the mare at a campdraft at Tambar Springs and bought her, taking her to local drafts where she secured several places, and then ridden by Max McFarlane she won the Australian Championships Maiden draft at Coonamble. Tony Schwager, also from the Wee Waa district acquired Breeze for campdrafting, however he was involved in a very successful Rugby Union football career so he decided to join her to the now legendary Warrenbri Romeo, owned by Peter Knight, who lived just down the road.

As a result of this joining, a bay filly to be called Romance, was born on 2nd December 1981, at Tony's property "Mareeba". Terry Hall lived in the same area and having first-hand knowledge of Romeo and his stock, had also noted the ability of Breeze. While mustering on "Mareeba", he admired the bay filly in the paddock and inquired about her breeding. When Tony informed him that she was out of Breeze by Romeo, Terry wanted to buy her. Tony realised that his commitment to his football ruled out campdrafting at the time and decided to sell her unbroken, at what he considered, a fairly good price. Tony relates that Terry did not hesitate about the price and soon turned up in his truck to collect her. Due to an accident, her breaking-in was delayed and she was close on 4 years of age, when Shane Turner broke her in to saddle. At that age she was fairly difficult to break in but Terry was unphased about it all, as he advised Shane to just keep working her.

Terry always believed in giving his young horses a stint on the roads droving and soon Romance became part of his droving team. Sue Jones recounts the story that on one particular occasion, Terry was experiencing great difficulty with some cattle and he told Ben, who was only a youngster at the time, to go back to the

Christine Hall  
on Hazelwood  
Romance



camp and quickly bring him back a particular horse. Very soon he noticed Ben cantering back on Romance. "What the hell are you doing on her!", yelled Terry. To which Ben replied that she was the only one he could catch. From that day onwards, Romance became a reliable mare, beginning a brilliant partnership that spanned eight years.

Romance won the Maiden Draft at Narrabri in 1987 and from there went on to win an amazing 114 drafts in what was really a reasonably short career.

Ridden by Terry, she placed 2nd in the World Championship Campdraft at Sydney in 1990 and won 1st place in the same event at Sydney in 1992. The indomitable pair also placed 2nd in the World Championship Campdraft at Sydney in 1993 and were awarded the McFarlane trophy for the highest score in any session conducted during the competition and followed this up with 3rd place the following year.

Another plus for the Hall family was Romance being awarded the prestigious Nat Buchanan Award for campdrafting in 1991. In 1993, Terry and Romance placed 2nd in the Grandfather Clock at Chinchilla and placed 2nd in the Canning Downs Draft at Warwick in 1994, winning the cut-out in the same event. It is a testament to her softness and natural ability that Jane & Ben won Junior & Juvenile drafts riding Romance while Terry's father, Arty Hall

Terry Hall and Hazelwood Romance. Winner of the Prestigious Buchanan Trophy, 1991.

& Romance won the Cast for Age Cup at Cubbaroo Draft. Ben Hall once won a Junior Draft at Murrurundi with a broken arm, scoring 97 points for the win. This versatile mare was not just a campdrafter of note; campaigned by Christine Hall in the showing, she won led and working Australian Stock Horse classes at Royal Show level. In 1989 and 1990 she won the ASH Working Mare at Sydney Royal and was Reserve Champion Working mare both times. Also in 1991, the duo won both the Champion Working and Led ASH mare at Melbourne Royal.

The last event for Romance was in the campdraft at Upper Horton in 1995. As she and Terry commenced the cut-out the mare noticeably stumbled popping Terry out of the saddle and the crowd around the camp were firstly amused to see him unseated. Tragically, this was to be the mare's last run as she had stepped on a rock, chipping a bone in her foot and forcing an untimely retirement from what had been a brilliant career.

Prior to her retirement, in 1993 Romance had produced an embryo transfer foal, Hazelwood Romantic Oak, by Docs Freckles Oak. It was now decided to rejoin her again to Freckles Oak with the result being another full sister, Oakels foaled in 1996, then the bay stallion Hazelwood Taylor Made by Tassa Lena in 1997 and another bay stallion Hazelwood Conman by Dogwood Comet produced in 1999. The next two foals were colts, one by Hazelwood Dry Doc and another by Comet which unfortunately died. The next joining was to the Thoroughbred sire Semipalatinsk which produced the stallion Hazelwood Showman in 2002 and her final progeny was a filly by the renown cutting horse Seligman Spin. It is interesting to note that all of her foals were bay except for the last filly which is buckskin in colour.

Having only been joined to top performance sires, it is not surprising that Romance has produced outstanding progeny. Romantic Oak has won numerous Open Drafts and was equal 2nd in the Warwick Gold Cup in 1999 while Taylor Made has won Open Drafts, ASH classes and Challenges. Conman has commenced a very successful career winning Open Drafts (at the last count 16 drafts and 29 places) as well as other events and is highly sought-after as a sire as he demonstrates many of the attributes of his great dam. Showman has just commenced his campaign and has already placed in drafts.

With the passing of time, Romance developed

... a brilliant  
partnership  
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8 years...

... winner of  
an amazing  
114 drafts...



cataracts in both eyes so with her eyesight gradually failing and her legs troubling her as well, Chris put Nelson, their donkey in the paddock with her. He was always her special companion as he protected her and her foals. To help alleviate the pain of arthritis, she also had magnetic bands placed around her feet and by October 2005, it was thought that Romance was looking the best that she had for some time. It was then while Chris and Terry were on their way to Warwick, that Ben discovered her with a serious foot injury and the agonising decision was made that the kindest thing to do for their beloved mare was to put her down.

It is a fitting tribute to Romance that during that

sad week, her son, Hazelwood Conman ridden by Chris won the prestigious Ladies Draft and he also finalised in the Stallion Draft and Canning Downs at Warwick. Terry has stated that Romance is the best mare that the family has campaigned and it is obvious that she held a special place in all their hearts. When folks gather to discuss campdrafting, Romance is always rated highly for her turn of speed and the special memories she invokes.

Romance was buried at the Hall's property, "Lightview" Goondwindi on 24th October 2005 with her grave facing east to the rising sun. A rock with a plaque is being erected to mark her resting place. Hazelwood Romance may be gone

but she will live on through her progeny which is the valuable legacy she has bestowed not only to the Hall Family but to all committed breeders within the whole Australian Stock Horse world.

**.... a versatile mare not just a campdrafter....**

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