

Celebrating 40 Years with Arabian Horses

By Jenny Pond

Halimas Egyptian Prince (*Royal Jamill x *AK Faressa).



Nicole Emanuel

In 1968 Peter Pond founded Forest Hill Stud, initially with Australian-bred mares including Fanfare (Farhan x Fionna), a celebrated show horse and broodmare. Descendants of this original mare have reached the highest honours including Sadiks Psyche, the 2006 Australian National Arabian Champion Stallion and Dassefa, the Reserve World Champion Stallion in Paris and Middle East Champion Stallion in 2000.

Peter travelled extensively in the early 1970s while developing the stud and soon became enchanted with straight Egyptian horses, subsequently importing some of the first straight Egyptian Arabians into Australia.

Peter and his father, Alan, became great friends with the respected breeders Judith and Don Forbis from Ansata Arabians in America. This friendship resulted in several of the early imports including Ansata El Shahwan (Ansata Shah Zaman x Ansata Rhodora) and in later years the handsome Prince Fa Moniet (The Egyptian Prince x Fa Moniet), one of the greatest Egyptian stallions alive in the world at the time.

One of Forest Hill's early straight Egyptian imports included Hansan, a son of El Hilal from Hamamma. Peter also played a pivotal role in the discovery of the black stallion Al Karim Sirhalima (from Sirhabba), a son of Ansata Ibn Halima purchased by Peter's friends Sylvia Archer and Gloria Lanigan. These stallions became influential in Australia and today many of Forest Hill's mares trace back to these initial foundation horses.

Peter imported a number of beautiful straight Egyptian mares in the 1970s. Omayma (Sameh x Nazerra), bred at the Egyptian Agricultural Organisation (EAO) and imported into the USA by Gleannloch Farms was then imported to Australia in foal to Ansata Ibn Sudan. She subsequently produced the beautiful Suddonna, a very successful show horse. Forest Hill also imported the mares Talicia (Talal x Hoda) and the black Al Nahr Janie (Ansata Abbas Pasha x Hanna).

Fanfare was bred to Al Karim Sirhalima and the resulting filly was Serrefa, one of the greatest show mares in Australia in the 1970s, and her show career culminated in her winning Australian Reserve Champion Mare in 1990. Serrefa produced



The 2000 Australian Champion Colt
Sanadik Ibn Estopa imp USA.

many wonderful foals including Serdika (by Simeon Sadik exp UK) and Jessefa (by *AK Jabal Ibn Moniet). Serdika is the dam of Sadiqs Psyche, the 2006 Australian National Arabian Champion Stallion conceived using frozen semen imported by the Padron son, Padrons Psyche. Jessefa was bred to the 1991 Australian National Champion Stallion *WN Dasjmir eight times for eight colts, the most famous being Dassefa. Dassefa garnered many major wins including 1998 Australian Reserve Champion Stallion before his purchase by the Royal family in Saudi Arabia, who showed him to win Middle East Champion Stallion and Reserve World Champion Stallion in Paris.

Peter admired not only straight Egyptian horses but also appreciated the best horses from all bloodlines. Together with Lesley Maxwell Dowey of Arabesque Stud, Baskhan was imported to Australia. Baskhan was by the Polish stallion Bask and was one of only three Bask sons to be imported to Australia. Baskhan was out of the Scottsdale champion and twice US Top Ten Mare, Kimeyn. Unfortunately he died at only ten years of age but he left his legacy as a great breeding horse.

When Baskhan died, his sire Bask had become one of the most famous stallions in America and unfortunately predeceased Baskhan. Finding another Bask son was impossible, so the stud purchased a double Bask grandson, BPL Dante imp USA, to continue the Bask heritage. *BPL Dante was by a son of Bask, Bask Clasix, out of a Gdansk (by Bask) daughter, making him a double Bask grandson.

Forest Hill was basically founded on English and Crabbet lines, as were all Australian Arabian horse studs in the 1970s. Forest Hill went on breeding its mares to mainly straight Egyptian stallions in the early 1980s following with the Polish horses, specifically *BPL Dante, and he gave more neck and movement to the horses while still retaining the lovely heads and bodies. Two *BPL Dante daughters remain in the stud today - Dancing Shadow and Dantes Serenade. Other descendants include Mustang's Magnum, 2007 Australian National Champion Filly. Dancing Shadow (out of Zaarlina by *Al Karim Sirhalima from *Bint Zaaris, a USA Top Ten mare, international champion mare in UK and twice Australian Reserve Champion Mare

1983 and 1985) is a very beautiful mare that has been many times champion including at the East Coast Arabian Horse Championships. Dancing Shadow has produced gorgeous daughters who in turn have been show champions.

Dantes Serenade is one of the grand matriarchs of the stud as she turns 20 years old in 2008. Dantes Serenade is a daughter of the exquisite Arabesque Desert Song (*Hansan x Arabesque Desert Gold). This Bask look-a-like daughter has produced wonderful sons and daughters, including Karinka by Fairview Klassique exp USA, the 2001 Australian National Arabian Champion Mare. Sadly Karinka has since died. Another superb daughter is Psyches Serenade by Padrons Psyche; she has been great show mare for Forest Hill. Richard Sharman of Jangharm Arabians in Queensland owns her 2007 bay colt, Fayt, sired by the straight Egyptian import Fayrid.

Another import was the handsome liver chestnut stallion Sunshine Bey, bred by Varian Arabians in California. *Sunshine Bey was a son of Canadian National Champion and twice Reserve US National Champion Stallion Bay El Bey, and his dam was Halali Filigree. Sunshine was a major show winner in halter and under saddle and was awarded with the honour of Supreme status in the Australian Arabian Roll of Merit.

During the 1980s Forest Hill looked after the stallion Fairview Klassique while his owner Quentin Naylor was living in Brazil. This son of *Amir El Shaklan had been shown by Richard Sharman extensively and was one of the most successful Australian show stallions, winning all major shows in three eastern states of Australia. Fairview Klassique went on to become the 1993 Australian National Arabian Champion Stallion and six months later was exported to America by his owner where he went on to become Buckeye Champion Stallion at his first show in the USA. This qualified him for the US Nationals, which he won in 1997. During the short time Klassique was at Forest Hill several of our best mares were bred to this lovely bay stallion. The stud has retained two of his outstanding daughters: the three-quarter sisters Enchanted Melody (from Arabesque Desert Song) and Kaptivation (from Halimas Song).

Enchanted Melody and Kaptivation are daughter and granddaughter respectively of Arabesque Desert Song (*Hansan x Arabesque Desert Gold), a mare that has had a great influence within the stud. Both these mares have been supreme show champions. Enchanted Melody has only been used lightly in the stud but her son Halimas Shaki's Image was supreme champion



Fayrid imp USA.

Nicole Emanuel



at the Hunter Valley All Arabian Show. Kaptivation has produced more foals and is the dam of Halimas Kaptivation (by Sanadik Ibn Estopa), Supreme Female Exhibit at the 2004 Queensland Challenge Show and Kaptivation is also the dam of Klassical Princess (by *Prince Fa Moniet), Top Five at the East Coast.

Due to the success of using El Shaklan bloodlines over the Crabbet, Egyptian, and Polish cross mares the stud imported Sanadik Ibn Estopa in the late 1990s. This young stallion was named 2000 Australian National Arabian Champion Colt and has since been Top Ten Stallion at the Australian Championships every time he has been exhibited. *Sanadik Ibn Estopa was bred by the world famous Om El Arab Stud in California, USA and is by the legendary Sanadik El Shaklan. *Sanadik Ibn Estopa is a genetic giant in that he is out of the beautiful mare Bint Estopa, a daughter of Estopa. This intense pedigree has meant *Sanadik Ibn Estopa has consistently produced exceptional individuals. His progeny have won major awards in five states.

Forest Hill Stud was one of the first farms to use frozen semen when approval for its use was granted by the Board of the Arabian Horse Society. Initially success was difficult with large vet bills and few results. I spent one month in the USA in 1997 and was taught to handle and use frozen semen and to scan mares with ultrasound. This independence resulted in great success for the stud as many foals were conceived while I was doing the vet work. Foals were sired by US Reserve National Champion Stallion Padrons Psyche, US National Champion Stallion Legacy of Gold, the Russian-bred Balaton son Sambist, and the famous straight Egyptian stallions Ansata Sinan (Reserve World Champion), Anaza El Farid (Supreme Champion at The Egyptian Event) and Salaa El Dine (owned by Dr Hans Nagel in Germany). Descendants of most of these horses are in the stud today.

In 1997 *Prince Fa Moniet was leased to Forest Hill Stud for two seasons. This snow white majestic grandson of Morafic graced the farm for only a short time as sadly he died during his second season. At only 18 years of age this was an unexpected loss, not only for Forest Hill but also for Egyptian breeders universally. *Prince Fa Moniet blood is still sought after worldwide and is highly regarded in the Middle East. Peter imported three straight Egyptian mares to be bred to *Prince Fa Moniet: Rusima (by Ruminaja Ali) produced a colt that was sold to Queensland; Bint Jamilla (by Jamill) foaled a colt named Prince Jamill and he has been retained by the stud; the third mare, Halimas Tiara (by El Hilal), was never bred.

Nine *Prince Fa Moniet daughters live at Forest Hill, most are beautiful Arabians with a mixture of bloodlines but all have the same characteristics, beautiful heads and excellent top lines with overall quality. The lovely straight Egyptian *Prince Fa Moniet daughter, AK Faressa was imported from the USA and after living at Forest Hill for nearly ten years was sold to Saudi Arabia but her legacy lives on through three daughters and an outstanding son, Halimas Egyptian Prince. Ansata Bint Faressa (by Ansata Hejazi) was imported with her mother, AK Faressa. Two of AK Faressa's daughters have also been retained, Halimas Bint Faressa and Halimas Monessa, both sired by Royal Jamill imp USA.

The fairytale stallion *Royal Jamill is another exquisite Egyptian stallion at Forest Hill that has produced a number of very lovely daughters of both straight Egyptian and mixed bloodlines. *Royal

2006 Australian Champion Stallion Sadiks Psyche.



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Psyches Serenade
(Padrons Psyche x
Dantes Serenade).



Halimas Fayressa (Fayrid x Ansata Bint Faressa).

Jamill is by the Ansata Imperial son Royal Jalliel, a three-quarter brother to the World Champion Mare, Imperial Phanilah. *Royal Jamill's dam is by Jamil and out of an Ansata Ibn Halima daughter. This lovely stallion is a classic Egyptian horse in every sense.

The most recent import for Forest Hill is the black straight Egyptian stallion Fayrid (Faahim x MB Shareena) from the USA. He is a stunning stallion with immense presence, a beautiful head and extreme type and powerful movement. *Fayrid has crossed successfully both with the straight Egyptian mares in the stud as well as daughters from *Sanadik Ibn Estopa, *Fairview Klassique, *Prince Fa Moniet and Padrons Psyche. *Fayrid is a grandson of two immeasurably important Egyptian stallions, Anaza El Farid and Imperial Madheen. Although only a young stallion *Fayrid has had progeny exported to the Middle East and New Zealand. His first progeny to be shown, Halimas Saayid (from Serdika) was Champion Colt at 2008 Arabian Gala Event in Queensland.

Over the past 40 years Peter has been totally dedicated to the Arabian horse. His efforts extend far beyond a personal level. In the late 1970s he served as chairman on a number of national Arabian promotion committees which saw the introduction of the Australian National Arabian Championships and the introduction of the Roll of Merit. He also served as a Director on the Board of the Arabian Horse Society of Australia for a total of 21 years with nine of those years as Chairman. During his time on the Board, the Australian Championships, Roll of Merit and National Judges Panel were incorporated into the Society's operations. Peter was also a member of a number of management, registry and other important Society committees.

For many years Peter attended the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) conferences overseas as an Australian

Delegate. With his extensive experience he was eventually invited onto the Executive Committee of WAHO and is currently Vice-President. The Executive Committee meets annually overseas and bi-annually holds Executive Meetings in conjunction with an International Conference which is held in various member countries. The focus is on all matters affecting the Purebred Arabian horse worldwide.

Peter has been a world recognised international Arabian horse judge since the 1970s and has judged in Australia, France, Germany, Italy, New Zealand, Qatar, South Africa, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. Major shows judged include the European Nations Cup in Germany, The Egyptian Event in Kentucky USA, the South African National Championships, the World Championships in Paris, the Qatar International Championships, the UK International Show Towerlands, the Australian National Arabian Championships and most royal shows in Australia.

The future of Forest Hill continues in the direction of Egyptian horses. The next young stallion to arrive is Laheeb Al Rayyan, bred by Al Rayyan Farm in Qatar. The importation of Laheeb brings things full circle as Laheeb is out of the queen of Ansata, the beautiful Ansata Selket, one of Judith Forbis' most favourite and prized mares. Ansata Selket with Judith can be found on the back cover of her book "Authentic Arabian Bloodstock". *Laheeb Al Rayyan is by Ansata Hejazi, a son of Ansata Halim Shah and from Ansata Sudarra. Al Rayyan has a unique collection of beautiful Ansata horses and is continuing the dream and passion of the Ansata breeding program. Over the years Peter has collected many horses of Ansata bloodlines and has enjoyed a wonderful friendship with the Forbises, which began nearly 40 years ago. It is fitting that the latest import carries the blood of horses Peter has admired and known for so many years. ❖