

CANDLEBARK BLOSSOM

Born: 4th May 1972
S. Errislannon Sparkler CPSB 210
d. Errislannon Asphodel CPSB 3375
Height: 13.2hh

In 1972 the Woodward family from Candlebark Stud, Bungaree, Victoria purchased Errislannon Asphodel from Errislannon Manor in Clifden, Ireland.

Asphodel was in foal (Blossom) with foal at foot and was transported to Australia by ship. David and his family used Blossom for showing and bred three foals, all colts: Cathal, Deorsa and Brian. He cannot recall if she was broken in but her strong personality is something he can still clearly recall even after twenty years passed. Clipping her for a show was something they tried only once. "Bossie Blossie" was not one to be pushed around.

She was sold at the Barwidgee sale in January 1979, in foal with foal at foot, to the Mc Gowan family at Barnawartha, Victoria. She was the second highest priced lot at the sale, only Silver Mill with filly foal at foot and in foal again brought more.

The Mc Gowan family bred four foals from Blossom: Marty, Katie, Mickey and Barney. They carry the Yarradoo prefix. Her foals made good riding stock and the Mc Gowan girls took turns to break them in. Both the Woodwards and the McGowans remember Blossom as an assertive mare, a very strong personality and always at the top of the pecking order. She was open to bribes with oats being a favourite. The McGowans found her to be trustworthy and responsible with beginners, sure-footed and steady when carrying experienced riders over the foothills of the divides. Her offspring are still teaching children to ride with some in the local pony club. She is sadly missed by the McGowans.

In 1988 Blossom was sold to the King family at Wagga Wagga, NSW. One of young Sharon King's first riding experiences with Blossom, as recalled by her grandmother, was of Blossom, mounted by Sharon, sitting "donkey fashion" on her haunches, refusing to budge. A tearful Sharon, having to give-in first before Blossom would stand. I believe Sharon did become quite a good rider and the family did purchase four more Connemaras.

Blossom is now 29, and since 1999 has lived at Kahean Stud, in Belimbla Park NSW and now at Sulky in Victoria. She is the permanent companion of stallion, Greenhills Trooper Thomas who is devoted and respectful to her at all times. "Bossie Blossie" would not stand for anything less.

Candlebark Blossom has quietly promoted the breed by being the wonderful Family pony. Her children and grandchildren are still looking after young riders and will continue to do so for many years.