

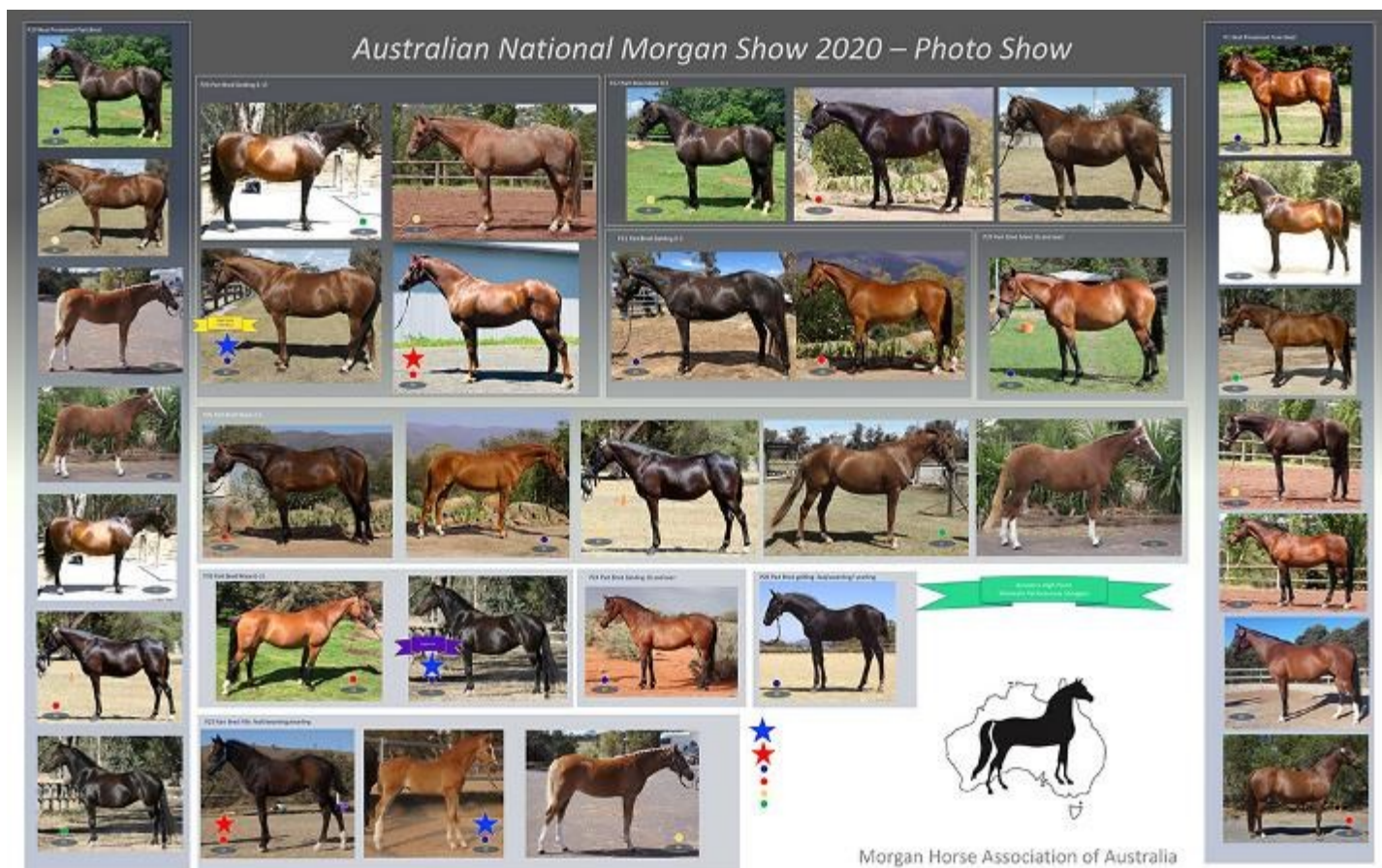
MHAA Photo Show

Conformation Awards 2020



Supreme Pure & Champion Stallion
Quietude Cezanne







Secretary's Report

In these unprecedented times I hope you are all keeping safe and happy. Now, more than ever, it is so important to stay in contact with each other via social media and other virtual means ... and, of course, our *Morgan Messenger*. As we all do the 'physical distancing' thing, it seems we are actually becoming even closer in our Morgan community, via the internet.

With the postponement of our ANMS until November (Covid-19 situation allowing), we have even more time to prepare for that fantastic event. I feel we may have even more Versatility Challenge competitors in November, as you all get out and spend that time training your horse now that you are staying at home.

We held the AGM via Zoom and it was quite successful, given the short period we had to arrange a different method of holding this important event. It was so good to have so many people able to 'attend' the AGM.

The photo show was a huge success yet again and Eva Hornung has arranged for all members to take advantage of the amazing gift Dr Deb Bennett donated; a copy of her book, *Conformation Basic Skills, Workbook no 1*, that is not yet available in Australia, for the mere cost of postage.

Our new National Promotions Officer, Monica Hammond, is working on some ideas to keep our members motivated to do things with their Morgans during the coming months. Some announcements will be made in the coming days.

Until next MM, stay safe, stay connected and (if possible) stay at home!

Kathy Lyons

Secretary

Email words & pics to messenger@morganhorse.com.au or to your SLO. (Type in Word, plain paragraphs, no formatting. Send photos as separate jpeg files. Do not embed in text. Make sure all photos are fully captioned.)

It's your newsletter—please send us your news, stories, pictures.

Deadline for
next Morgan
Messenger issue
is May 30th



The Morgan Horse Association of Australia is leading the way in online showing

The Morgan Horse Association of Australia's (MHAA) Photo Conformation Show is attracting attention from overseas breed associations who are beginning to recognise the relevance and importance of photo conformation shows. Enquiries have already come in from Hungary and Ireland to the Association from other Morgan breeders asking whether they can use the MHAAs ideas.

We all love and appreciate the ANMS, and when the show moved to Western Australia the first time, my imagination came into play. I can easily claim that I am from the most isolated Morgan stud in the world, and I'm used to interacting in alternative ways because of my isolation. I realised it was too far for competitors to travel from other states, and awfully hard for me to take all of my Morgans to the show, and so, with the support of the Board, I initiated the photo conformation show section.

The great success of the first photo show was encouraging, and when Eva Hornung saw its potential, she offered to help me organise it. Working together, we took it to the next level. I'm a bit of a super-organiser and Eva is a knowledgeable and fastidious Morgan enthusiast. Conformation has been a lifelong study for Eva. She is an equine artist, as well as an owner and breeder of Morgans. She breeds Morgans because she says they are 'a fundamentally sane, sound and strong breed, and should be kept that way.'

I run what I call 'the largest Morgan stud in the world' at Challa Station in Western Australia. I started breeding Morgans about ten years ago when I recognised the breed as the perfect animal for my property. Eva runs her boutique Morgan stud in South Australia. Her Morgan herd was chosen with care, according to her passion, taste, eye and skills (and a knowledge of genetics) with a very long-term project of preservation and improvement. She advises a number of different breeders across Australia, including Challa, on breeding and selecting Morgans.

Over the years, Eva and I have built a shared vision of what the Photo Show can do for the Morgan breed. The photo show provides a very important archive for the Association. The MHAA is already starting to build a valuable collection of reference photos. With the two of us working together, the Photo Conformation Show has evolved to become a serious competition conformation assessment which is particularly useful to breeders and students of conformation.

Judges are approached six months prior to the show. The 2020 judge was horse conformation expert, Dr Deb Bennett. Photos are deidentified and uploaded to Dropbox for the judge to access. The judge then sorts through the fields at leisure and selects their champions. Results are sent back as numbers to the organisers, who then insert the horse's name.

By doing it this way, the judge has no idea who the horse is that they are looking at, thus removing any possibility of bias. The judge provides comments justifying why they chose a particular horse and giving overall comments about the Morgans in Australia.

As Eva says, 'This competition is an assessment of conformation only from a limited set of data, presented on strict guidelines to create as level a playing field as possible. Conformation is only one attribute that makes a Morgan wonderful. Temperament, movement, presence, intelligence, training and trainability, bond with owner are all attributes better assessed at a live show.'

But the photo show is accessible to all Morgan owners in the country, regardless of their personal circumstances. It's a great excuse to show off your Morgans and a motivation to take those beautiful photos you have always been meaning to get.

Debbie Dowden

PURE BRED MORGAN REGISTRAR'S REPORT

This is my first Registrar's report, having come into the role following the tragic death of Judi Anderson. Her shoes were, and are, not easy to fill, and I miss her, as I know a great many of us do. I cannot thank the current MHAA Board members enough for helping me through the very difficult transition. I must also thank Erica Eulau, the Registrar for AMHA; and in particular Judi's cousin Sue Schultz. Without their help and support I don't think I could have picked up these reins.

Judi has also been my mentor and guide these past months. Working through her meticulous files, I was able to guess how everything was done, what her personal codes for things were, and slowly how a Registry like ours functions.

The tasks of the Registry have been unusual so far. The office moved physically from Judi's apartment to my upstairs room in SA (a huge undertaking, lovingly achieved by Sue and Kurt Schultz driving everything over). The first Reciprocity Report was completed and sent. New certificates were designed and produced to celebrate Reciprocity. Several databases, in particular Honour Rolls celebrating and recording ANMS achievement in all categories were created for website and reference archive. The ANMS Stallions Showcase project was proposed to the Board and received approval. I have now completed draft designs for more than half the stallions included so far, with a notional deadline of end June 2020.

I have also obtained permission from AMHA to redesign and print the Jean Mellin ideal stallion and mare poster prints with the breed standard on the back, and these will be included in New Morgan Owner packs in the near future.

Mid year, Dr Deb Bennett agreed to judge our 2020 Conformation Photo Show, and the marathon of preparing the show and sending it off for judging has just been completed, with myself and Debbie Dowden teaming up as usual to make a great Photo Show.

RECIPROCITY

With the completion of the Reciprocity reports going back to the beginnings of MHAA, you will now find AMHA's online Registry much more complete. Offspring and ownership details should all be up there up to the end of 2018. The 2019 report will go to AMHA around mid year, and details to end 2019 will be available sometime thereafter. It is rather lovely to see all offspring recorded in the central database.

I would like to encourage all breeders to Register your prefixes. A registered prefix cannot be used for a Morgan anywhere in the world. It is reserved for your use. As I envisage a future with far more demand for the genetics of Australian Morgans, this seems important. An unregistered prefix, particularly a simple geological or botanical word, could easily be registered by someone else, and you would have to change your naming from then on.

REGISTRY ACTIVITY

Since I began as Registrar in June 2019, 26 new applications for Registration have been made. 64 certificates have been issued, 38 of them representing transfers of Registration.

Since early Spring 2019, Australia has 28 new pure bred Morgans. 27 foals, and one imported colt, my own Quietude Cezanne. The 2019 foaling season produced 13 fillies and 18 colts from 34 matches (2 ET). Of the 31 foals, 4 have died; 3 colts and a filly. In all, 18 stallions and 33 mares were bred, so our functional breeding herd is very small.

Among the foals we have quite a few firsts. We welcome Tru-West Silver Suede's first offspring in Australia (via frozen semen) at Eaton's Hill (QLD); Mountain Crk Cartier's first foals at Challa Station (WA); Fernleigh Creek Leander's first foals at Fernleigh Creek and Wildu Mandaawi (SA); Leambro Gladiator's first foal at Leambro (QLD); Lord of Belvue's first pure bred (WA); and Wilga Park River Gum's first at Cockatoo Park (QLD).

Among the mares, Crossmatch Unique Edition for Rosebrook Park (WA), Moonbah Tempest Cruise for Ballamara (VIC), Shibui Black Pearl for Eaton's Hill (QLD), Island Honour for Wildu Mandaawi (SA), Haymeron Park Tiffany Anco for Leambro (QLD) and Mountain Crk High Fashion (ET) for Mountain Creek (VIC) all produced their first foals in some very exciting matches. (I have omitted stallions or mares whose foals have died).

If I have missed any foals please do let me know. I hope to see registration applications on all come through in due course.

I receive very few formal Notification of Death forms (not that I really want to: each one is a pang of loss). However, where owners have published their loss on FB or to the MHAA Board, I have noted it. This year we lost some much loved Morgans. Valé Eiben's Sterling, Willo Pond Joshua, Kelford Bessie Mae, Mt Tawonga Christa, Mt Tawonga Genevieve. They live on in their treasured offspring.

Please contact me if there is anything I can help you with in recording and archiving your Morgans and their achievements.

Eva Hornung, Pure Bred Registrar.

On the Conformation Awards Photo Show

It feels a little awkward to coordinate the Photo Show and then have my horse take Supreme in it, even worse when it is for the third time, AND worse again when the mare, gelding and stallion Champions are all here at WM; AND, to cap it, it is the trophy I sponsored.

People who do not know me well might be forgiven for suspecting me of foul play. However, as Debbie Dowden can attest, the Photo Show is judged by people as independent from us and our horses here in Australia as it is possible to be. It is judged blind: horses have a number and a class, and (rarely) an injury advice if the owner feels it is relevant to judging. Horses over 16 years have their year of birth after their number; horses under 4 have their age in years and months. The judge is given no identifying facts other than these. And judges are usually sourced by cold email (no previous connection); and, for the past three, I don't know of any connection to our FB networks. I am proud of how scrupulously it is devised and run, and both Debbie and I regularly brainstorm ways to improve it.

Despite my flippant opening sentence, this 2020 Conformation Photo Show has felt like a huge endorsement of many of my choices. Antares, the stallion I chose first; Madralena, the mare who is the spirit and source of my whole Morgan endeavour; Cezanne, the young colt I have just imported; Crystanby Aqarian, the stallion I have chosen to breed to twice; and the stallion I tried to breed to, Beau's Western Edition. These are all selected as exceptional. And I am really proud of what I am doing with my beautiful horses and excited for the future. Morgans inspire me and are worth it. I hope I will do my bit preserving and strengthening what we have here in Australia.

Maddie is retiring. I won't enter her again. In 6 years, she has been Champion mare 3 times, once Supreme, and once Reserve. She was also Reserve at the Live ANMS 2019, beaten only by her daughter Niamh who went Supreme. 5 very different judges, one of them a conformation specialist, have accoladed her. Maddie was entered each time with either a different set or different side-on photos. Antares, too, won't be entered again. I am really happy with his record of images from foalhood to adulthood, but most of all, he has no offspring and is a gelding, and it is the breeding horses and the emerging youngsters that I want to enter. Candy loved being photographed, and needs no more, and Bonne is well and truly recorded too. I will enter Morgana Beau again, as she was hard to photograph fairly, and is blooming now and showing me something of herself I didn't successfully record.

I will enter Cezanne, Niamh, Moonshadows, possibly Honour and definitely the foals, and can't wait to see how future judges react to them.

The Photo Show is much more than just a competition. It is slowly collating a unique archive. Even just 6 years in, we have records of individual horses from foalhood to adulthood. Over time these will be made available to everyone. I photograph or help photograph and enter as many Morgans as I can: my own, my friends' and anyone who asks. I enter the older mares I have cared or care for, both to celebrate them and to record them for future owners of their progeny, breeders and Morgan historians. Pure bred or part, these horses have both a past and a future that meant and will mean a great deal to many people.

Well, I am relieved Moonshadows didn't win the Novelty 'Versatility' Buckle, although she tried! Thank you everyone who voted for her. I voted for Moana.

Finally, Sandi Frolich, Part Bred Registrar, and breeder, with Isabell Widdison, of the hugely successful Weemala Performance Morgans, will be joining us to help coordinate the Photo Show into the future.

Eva

Pure Bred Registrar

Wildu Mandaawi Morgans

ANMS 2020 – Photo Show Results

PUREBRED DIVISION

P1 Best Presented Pure Morgan – any age (7)

1. 42 Glentruin Tristan (NZ) (Karenza Apollo / Okan Missed Easter)
2. 79 Tui's Moana (Tuatahi Song / Myross Morgans Hine)
3. 54 Ballamara Royal Command (Watching Royalty / Red Bluff Talia)
4. 49 Red Bluff Evoke (Justin Morning Glory / Mt Tawonga Evonne)

P2 Pure Morgan Gelding Foal/Weanling/Yearling (4)

- 35 Challa Station Spinifex (Mountain Crk Cartier / Greenstone Dandaloo)
- 54 Ballamara Royal Command (Watching Royalty / Red Bluff Talia)
- 48 Red Bluff Excalibur (Justin Morning Glory / Mt Tawonga Evonne)
- 46 Wildu Nightwing (Mt Tawonga King / Island Honour)

P3 Pure Morgan Gelding 2-3 Years Old (2)

- 49 Red Bluff Evoke (Justin Morning Glory / Mt Tawonga Evonne)
- 51 Crystanby Soldanser (Crystanby Aqarian / Black Ruby of Belvue)

P4 Pure Morgan Gelding 4-5 Years Old (2)

- 69 Morgan Dream Prince Romeo (MEMC Crown Royal / Myross Morgans Candy)
- 24 Weemala Bookmaker (Briarlane Ebony Fortune / Equinox Tabitha)

P5 Pure Morgan Gelding 6-15 Years Old (6)

- 20 Fernleigh Creek Antares (Mt Tawonga King / Myross Morgans Hine)
- 42 Glentruin Tristan (NZ) (Karenza Apollo / Okan Missed Easter)
- 33 Mountain Crk Qwaid (Mt Tawonga Howqua / Mt Tawonga Keep)
- 15 Belvue Phoenix (Mt Tawonga King / Tui's Moana)

P6 Pure Morgan Gelding 16 years and over (2)

- 63 Beau's Western Edition (Sumicaro Beau Geste / Mt Tawonga Tisha)
- 55 Mt Tawonga Campbell (Marvelous Encore / Mt Tawonga Christa)

COMMENTS ON PUREBRED MORGAN GELDING – CHAMPION AND RESERVE

Our purebred champion and reserve Morgan geldings are both good, structurally sound and handsome horses who are good ambassadors for the Morgan breed. They are a pleasure to look at, and give the impression of being a pleasure to ride or drive, whether at home or brought before the public.

Champion Gelding 20 is one of the two most outstanding horses in the field presented at this show and is to be commended for his low hocks and knees, long thighs, long forearms, and superbly shaped and attached neck. He presents a very strong coupling and a lovely head of classic Morgan shape. His owner is additionally to be commended for an outstanding job of conditioning and evidently very knowledgeable riding, as proven by the harmonious and correct muscular development of every part of this horse's body.

Reserve Champion Gelding 69 is a horse meant for a lighter rider. Here the coupling is set back somewhat with the telltale peak falling behind a line connecting the points of hip. However, the back and coupling are broad enough. Likewise, he does not present as long and powerful a pelvis as the Champion but has excellent hocks and knees with the additional asset of higher withers, a rarity among purebred Morgans. The overall balance is beautiful and I expect this horse is a lovely and lively ride under English tack.

Comments from the class:

1st: Entry no. 20. This is truly an outstanding entry, not only structurally correct throughout but redolent of classic Morgan type. Nobody could possibly mistake this horse for anything but a Morgan. He is especially to be commended for the beautifully made, exceptionally strong coupling and for the long, shapely pelvis with deep thigh and excellent muscular development. The shoulder is very good and the neck-to-shoulder/body attachment perfect. No question it would be a pleasure to either ride or drive this horse.

1st: Entry no. 69. Here's a gelding that likes to put on a show! He's not overly strong through the pelvis and haunch but makes up for it with good overall body balance and smooth integration of parts. I like the topline and commend the withers development. Praise also is due for substantial, well-constructed hocks and knees, short muscular gaskins, and long forearms. The long, "scooped" facial profile is not my favorite but is largely made up for by good breadth between the eyes, producing an overall wedge-shaped

PURE MORGAN GELDING (EXCLUDE CLASS P2)

CHAMPION: 20
Fernleigh Creek Antares



RESERVE: 69
Morgan Dream Prince Romeo



P7 Pure Morgan Filly Foal/Weanling/Yearling (4)

1. 74 Leambro Reminisce (Leambro Gladiator / Haymeron Park Tiffany Anco)
2. 36 Challa Station Tarantella (Mountain Crk Cartier / Mt Tawonga Belinda)
3. 34 Wildu Ceridwen (Crystanby Aqarian / Blue Gum Bonneville)
4. 75 Leambro Lucille (Baptiste Levis Strauss / Haymeron Park Ruby Jane)

P8 Pure Morgan Filly 2-3YearsOld (4)

- 19 Wildu Niamh (MEMC Tequila Cuervo / Fernleigh Creek Madralena)
- 12 Watching Moonshadows (Mt Tawonga King / Mt Tawonga Sophia)
- 45 Fernleigh Creek Ashadear (Crystanby Aqarian / Fernleigh Creek Deuce)
- 81 Wildu Maialen (Mt Tawonga King / Fernleigh Creek Nena)

P9 Pure Morgan Mare 4-5 Years Old (3)

1. 41 Clover County Macey Grace (Mt Tawonga King / Gumbooya Mireya)
2. 13 Black Ruby of Belvue (Mt Tawonga King / Mt Tawonga Sophia)
3. 16 Island Honour (Karenza Astra / Mt Tawonga Tanjil)

P10 Pure Morgan Mare 6-15 Years Old (8)

1. 14 Fernleigh Creek Madralena (Mt Tawonga King / Fernleigh Creek Nena)
 2. 52 Fernleigh Creek Orla (Mt Tawonga King / Myross Morgans Hine)
 3. 70, 40, 61 (three-way tie)
- Wilga Park Liana, (RanchBoss Cortez / Haymeron Park Ruby Jane)
- Challa Station Captivate, (Koolaroo Klasique Ebony / Mt Tawonga Belinda)
- Mt Tawonga Tranquil (Mt Tawonga Tarraji / Mt Tawonga Linda)
4. 21 Blue Gum Bonneville (Victory's Traveling Man / Eagleview Benita)

P11 Pure Morgan Mare 16 Years & Over (5)

1. 79 Tui's Moana (Tuatahi Song / Myross Morgans Hine)
2. 32 Eagleview Benita (Marveous Encore / Mt Tawonga Bea)
3. 67 Myross Morgans Candy (Chalk Mtn Nimble Sprite / Mt Tawonga Miss Suzy)
4. 10 Mt Tawonga Belinda (Mt Tawonga Tarraji / Mt Tawonga Linda)

PURE MORGAN MARE (EXCLUDE CLASS P7)

CHAMPION: 14 Fernleigh Creek Madralena



RESERVE: 52 Fernleigh Creek Orla



Comments from the class:

1st: Entry no. 14. Commendations for exceptional depth of chest, excellent shoulder, substantial hind limbs with broad hocks, shapely head with desired low placement of eye with good bone structure supporting orbit. She is also helped by breadth of hock, and wins the class finally on the basis of classic Morgan “type”. Warning to owners that this mare is overly fat; Morgans as a breed are highly prone to metabolic disease and I would hate to see her suffer for the mere sake of the old halter-class adage that says “fat covers a multitude of sins”. Rest assured, I would still be able to “see” her, and she would be equally likely to win, if she were 100 lbs. lighter.

2nd: Entry no. 52. Commendations for exceptionally strong, well placed, and shapely coupling and beautiful, long pelvis with visible ischium. She stands second to no. 14 on the basis of “type”; this mare exemplifies the rangier UVM-type suitable for cavalry officer’s mount. Note to owners: please clean camera lens next time before photography.

COMMENTS UPON PUREBRED MORGAN MARE – CHAMPION AND RESERVE

As in the case with the male horses, in championship classes I am valuing type; the animal must look like a Morgan and not an American Saddlebred, Thoroughbred, pony, or crossbred. In the case of mares, which tend in the horse species as a whole to be long-waisted, I look for a certain compactness of body and depth from loin to groin, and value the forward placement of the coupling and its smooth construction, breadth, and strength.

Our Champion Mare no. 14 presents all of these assets plus an adequate set of legs, beautiful shoulder, and well-attached and shapely neck. Her head is of the classic Morgan type, wedge-shaped with orbits placed low and an undulating facial profile. The only aspect of this entry which I fault is the photographic technique: despite the unfortunate American practice, NO horse ever looks better when “ears up” is achieved by startling the animal or spooking it back. Let Australians set a proper world standard by eschewing the suddenly opened umbrella and the can of rocks. Next time, use carrots or a bouquet of rich lucerne to pique the horse’s interest!

Our Reserve Champion Mare no. 52 represents that type of Morgan which was once most valued as a cavalry officer’s mount. The conformation, though still redolent of Morgan type, is rangier than the classic “Justin Morgan” model and the animal stands a bit higher on its legs. Despite that, this mare presents excellent “bone” substance and great hock and knee joints. Her coupling is flawless and her back high and strong. Her shoulder is a little more upright than that of the champion but still long and beautiful – of the “slashing” type which comes to the Morgan through its Thoroughbred ancestry and which always implies free and scopey movement. This mare would carry a cavalry-type or police-type breastplate to great effect. I also love the long pelvis with prominent ischium, structure that ensures speed and power.

COMMENTS UPON PUREBRED MORGAN MARE (cont)

She has higher stifles (shorter thighs) and is just a little lighter through the britches and gaskins than is our Champion.

A note to the owner of Mare 52: Please consider adjusting the Weymouth, or any bit you may use, so that it lies a little lower in the horse's mouth. The horse's lips should not be stretched into any degree of grin, and zero wrinkles at the corners is the ideal. The bit should lie only just high enough to prevent the horse getting its tongue over it. When the bit lies at the proper height, you will find that suddenly the curb chain also "seats" in the chin groove much better and more comfortably and stops rubbing up and down. Unless this mare is a flat-out runaway (which I doubt), please consider shorter shanks also: the less bit the more you allow the horse to show you what it can do, and the more you show off the legendary good-mindedness of the Morgan horse.

P12 Pure Morgan Entire Weanling/Yearling (2)

58 Rosebrook Park Go Figure (Lord of Belvue / Crossmatch Unique Edition)

18 Wildu Leroy Brown (Fernleigh Creek Leander / Fernleigh Creek Nena)

P13 Pure Morgan Entire 2-3Years Old (2)

17 Quietude Cezanne (Cimarron of Quietude / Quietude Wild Tansy)

31 Mountain Crk Cartier (MEMC Tequila Cuervo / Mountain Crk Helena)

P15 Pure Morgan Entire 6-15 Years Old (2)

1. 50 Crystanby Aqarian (MEMC Tequila Cuervo / Tui's Moana)

2. 56 Lord of Belvue (Mt Tawonga King / Tui's Moana)

PURE MORGAN STALLION (EXCLUDE CLASS P12)

CHAMPION: 17 Quietude Cezanne

RESERVE: 50 Crystanby Aqarian



COMMENTS UPON PUREBRED MORGAN STALLION – CHAMPION AND RESERVE

As with the Purebred Mare championship class in this show, the Champion and Reserve Stallion represent different “styles” of Morgan horse. Our Champion displays Morgan type primarily through head shape and expression and the deep, laid-back shoulder which is so characteristic of this breed. But we need to remember that this is also a male breeding animal who can potentially get hundreds of foals. Whenever judging stallions I therefore especially look for features which are needed as correctives in the breed as a whole. Champion no. 17 presents outstanding “bone” substance and well-constructed, broad hocks and knees – the Morgan breed could certainly use more stallions with legs to match these!

Champion no. 17 also stands over more ground than Reserve Champion no. 50, has a deeper thigh and an absolutely spectacular, long and laid-back shoulder. Champion is not yet three years old and thus is still three years from full skeletal, dental, and sexual maturity, but I predict a long and useful career for this animal who is a real asset to Australian Morgan horse breeding, both pure and partbred.

Reserve Champion no. 50 presents good “bone” substance, broad hocks and knees, and a very well-shaped neck; overall however he is a less substantial animal. I appreciate his smooth coupling and short back, but the stifles are higher and because of this the thigh less deep than Champion. Reserve is shallower from loin to groin and the shoulder more upright than in Champion.

Comments from the class:

1st: Entry no. 17. A very strong colt whom I have made Supreme Champion of this show. Here we have an outstanding shoulder and arm combined with good back and topline structure and a rock-solid underpinning with excellent bone substance, width of hock and knee – assets I would like to see spread far and wide among the modern Morgan breed. Neck shape is OK in this horse although there is a break in contour at the junction of the axis or 2nd vertebra and the lower part of the neck. Generally speaking this is an acquired deformation created by riders who pull, by the over-use of shanked bits, or (especially) by the use of a training fork/running martingale. Since no horse of any breed is skeletally mature until six years old, and since the last part of the skeleton to mature is the vertebral column of the neck, I would like to see this horse again in a few years to assess neck length which will probably have increased by the time he reaches skeletal, dental and sexual maturity at the age of six years.

1st: Entry no. 50. A very good stallion commended for exceptionally good limb structure with broad and correctly-constructed knees and hocks, ankle joints of appropriate size, and good, open, well-shaped feet. These are assets much needed in the Morgan breed today. I also like this stallion’s overall body balance, short back, good withers, and strong, smooth coupling. The neck is lovely. The head is also excellent with good bone structure supporting the orbits. His faults lie in standing a little high on his legs (does not stand over enough ground) and lacking somewhat in depth of chest (tubular body).

SUPREME PURE MORGAN

(From Champion Gelding, Champion Mare and Champion Stallion)

17 Quietude Cezanne



Comment on Supreme:

Most important factors in placement: Long pelvis with visible ischium; excellent bone; outstanding shoulder. Good neck length and attachment and superior withers structure (withers will get still higher and more sharply defined as this colt comes to full maturity).

It is to be noted that the Supreme horse stands at the top of some very strong competition. Entries 20 [Fernleigh Creek Antares], 63 [Beau's Western Edition], 14 [Fernleigh Creek Madralena], and 50 [Crystanby Aqarian] are also very well structured and 63 and 14 are classically "typey". Lower placing 52 [Fernleigh Creek Orla] and 63 [Beau's Western Edition] are also good, strong, useful animals.



PURE MORGAN Foal/Weanling/Yearling (INCLUDE CLASS P2, P7, P12)

CHAMPION: 58 Rosebrook Park Go Figure



RESERVE: 35 Challa Station Spinifex



COMMENTS UPON PUREBRED JUVENILE (Foal, Weanling, Yearling)

Entry no. 58 is a real pleasure to look at, from the very attractive head right down to big, well-formed knees and hocks. The shoulder/withers construction is superior. In judging juveniles, one is called upon to let experience predict what the animal is going to look like when mature. Champion no. 58 gives great promise of maturing into a breedworthy stallion, or at the very least, will make a handsome and athletic gelding.

Entries no. 35 and 74 are very similar through the forehead, so the Reserve Championship was won on the basis of Entry no. 35's shorter back, stronger and better-placed coupling, and an especially well-shaped pelvis and haunch.

Comments from the class

1st: Entry no. 58. This is an all-around excellent colt and potential stallion prospect. Commendations for excellent hock breadth and substance and a very good set of knees. The pelvic structure is good and the gaskins already muscular. I predict that this colt will ultimately develop a very shapely set of withers. Can't help but be pleased by the shapely head and perky, curious expression.

1st: Entry no. 35. Commendations for exceptionally smooth, well-integrated bodyparts producing the impression of harmony; broad, correctly constructed hocks; and for the long if somewhat upright shoulder constructed upon a proportionally deep chest. I predict this foal will grow into a very nice riding horse.

Get of Sire and Produce of Dam

P17 Pure Morgan Get Of Sire (3)

1. 102 (Comprised of 19, 31, 50) MEMC Tequila Cuervo
2. 100 (Comprised of 12, 20, 46) Mt Tawonga King
3. 101 (Comprised of 34, 45, 51) Crystanby Aqarian

P18 Pure Morgan Produce Of Dam (7)

1. 110 (Comprised of 20, 44) Myross Morgans Hine
2. 112 (Comprised of 12, 13) Mt Tawonga Sophia
3. 114 (Comprised of 15, 50) Tui's Moana
4. 113 (Comprised of 14, 18) Fernleigh Creek Nena

GENERAL COMMENTS UPON PUREBRED GET OF SIRE & PRODUCE OF DAM CLASSES

Get of sire and Produce of dam classes are to be judged not only upon the quality of the horses but also – since the parent horse is ultimately the one being evaluated – upon the uniformity of structure and type which its group of offspring present. Originally in the 19th century these classes were held primarily so that potential buyers could be assured that they would get the kind of foal they were expecting to get when bringing their mare to a potential sire.

As a group, Entry no. 102 scores highest for uniformity of type – these horses are essentially carbon copies of each other, giving good indication that no matter what purebred mare may be brought to him, the sire will “stamp” his get. The quality is high in this group also, featuring animals with strong couplings, large and shapely hindquarters, and pretty, well-carried necks. The underpinning is good also, with every horse standing on stout cannons and broad, correctly constructed knees, hocks, and ankles.

A comment to the owner of Entry no. 19: Raindrops on the camera lens! From what we hear in the news up here in the ‘States, one would think it never rained in Australia! Next time please see to it that the lens is clean before you start your photo session.

Let me tell you, folks, differentiating between first and second place in this [Produce of Dam] class was one of the toughest choices that I had to make. Horse no. 13, part of 2nd place Entry no. 112, pleases in a number of important ways, not least the spectacularly strong coupling, probably the best of any seen in this show – no problem with this horse going through many long working days bearing the maximum weight of 250 lbs. (rider plus tack), for it is breadth and strength of coupling that make a horse a good weight-carrier, not its height or overall size. Even a horse's legs and feet are less important for purposes of weight-bearing than the conformation of its coupling and back – although I have to mention that Entry 13 has only just enough limb substance and could use more “bone”. I like 13's half-sister, Entry no. 12, for her clean lines -- but note that nos. 12 and 13 could not be more different in “style” of build, and this is a detriment in a Produce of Dam class where uniformity counts.

First-place Entry no. 110 contains horse no. 20, the gelding that I have made Champion Purebred. He is an extremely handsome, typey, and structurally correct individual who has been expertly ridden, conditioned, and presented. Out of the same dam, however, came no. 44, whom I assume to be a half-brother. Structurally (and you really have to look beneath the skin to perceive this) 44 and 20 are very similar, presenting similar skeletal proportions.

GENERAL COMMENTS UPON CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES

First and foremost, in championship purebred classes the winner must present Morgan type. Winners should be handsome animals that could be mistaken for no other breed.

Of course, no matter how “typey” an individual might be, I would not place a horse who was not also structurally correct, because “type” is neither an elusive nor a subjective quality, but rather is founded upon the proportions of the underlying skeletal structure. Nor is “type” a mere matter of the shape of a horse’s head, the carriage of its tail, or the silhouette outline of its body, but an impression conveyed by the whole animal, which must present both a structural and a functional unity. Therefore, I also value horses with smoothly-fitted bodyparts and structurally strong and substantial build in which the integrated whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is what is meant by “harmony” in the study of conformation.

In evaluating these animals per their wins in the qualifying classes, I place great emphasis on the strength and placement of the loin coupling (see recommended printed materials if you’re not clear what the “loin coupling” is). I also highly value a level or slightly uphill overall body balance. These two features are major determinants of the ease with which the horse will bridle and collect – and thus also of the quality of the ride (or drive).

I am generally concerned with the historical tendency toward loss of substance in hocks and forelimbs in the Morgan breed. I also put a premium on the correctness of the anatomical construction of all joints, particularly insofar as the modern population of purebred Morgans is plagued with offset knees, misaligned carpal joints, narrow hocks, and insufficient or barely sufficient “bone” substance.

PURE MORGAN GELDING (EXCLUDE CLASS P2)

CHAMPION: 20 Fernleigh Creek Antares



RESERVE: 69 Morgan Dream Prince Romeo



PURE MORGAN MARE (EXCLUDE CLASS P7)

CHAMPION: 14 Fernleigh Creek Madralena



RESERVE: 52 Fernleigh Creek Orla



PURE MORGAN STALLION (EXCLUDE CLASS P12)

CHAMPION: 17 Quietude Cezanne



Injury advice: Temporary atrophy of pectoral muscles and near-side rump (slight): injection site nerve damage following illness.

RESERVE: 50 Crystanby Aqarian



Injury advice: Recent off fore heel wound

PURE MORGAN Foal/Weanling/Yearling (INCLUDE CLASS P2, P7, P12)

CHAMPION: 58 Rosebrook Park Go Figure



RESERVE: 35 Challa Station Spinifex



79 Tui's Moana, High Point Pure



Breeder's High Point

Novelty 'Versatility' Buckle

Weemala Performance Morgans

Tui's Moana





ANMS 2020 – Photo Show Results

PARTBRED DIVISION

P19 Best Presented Part Morgan– any age (7)

1. 68 Now in Love (/ Fernleigh Creek Scarlett)
2. 39 Sandeli Park Mi Amore (Pelennor Bilbo's Legacy /)
3. 60 Rosebrook Worth the Wait (Beau's Western Edition /)
4. 77 Weemala Amethyst (Briarlane Ebony Fortune /)

P20 Part Morgan Colt/Gelding - Foal/Weanling/Yearling (1)

- 29 Weemala Oracle (Moonbah Fortune Cookie /)

P21 Part Morgan Gelding 2-3 Years Old (2)

1. 22 Weemala Skylark (Briarlane Ebony Fortune /)
2. 28 Weemala Zodiac (Moonbah Fortune Cookie /)

P23 Part Morgan Gelding 6-15 Years Old (4)

1. 60 Rosebrook Worth the Wait (Beau's Western Edition /)
2. 78 Bunara Tribute (Marvelous Encore /)
3. 53 Tomorrow's Prize (Tui's Nimrod / Red Bluff Hilee Prized)
4. 47 Red Bluff Cameo (Justin Morning Glory /)

P24 Part Morgan Gelding 16 years and Over (1)

- 37 Tandarra Millennium (Karenza Apollo / Mt Tawonga Century)



Comments on Champion and Reserve:

Champion no. 60 is a very good horse who, although partbred, is nonetheless redolent of Morgan type. See my detailed comments about both these horses, given in Class P-23. Entry no. 60 wins over Entry no. 78 primarily because of the better structure of his hindquarters. Judge would love to take Entry no. 78 home, as my favorite type of horse is the old-fashioned, substantial American Saddlebred, but this is a Morgan show where Morgan type must be valued as best representing the breed.

Comments from the class

1st: Entry no. 60. A very good horse presented beautifully who, although partbred, is nonetheless redolent of Morgan type. Commendations for the broad, strong, smooth coupling; excellent shoulder; long pelvis with ideal slope and visible ischium; and an attractive Morgan-type head with cheerful and willing expression. The neck is shapely and long, well attached and carried, and with an especially nice throatlatch. Faulted for short, rather steep pasterns. He could also use more substance through the forelimbs and wider knees. Horse toes out slightly.

2nd: Entry no. 78. This horse gave first place a real run for his money. Here is the partbred created with American Saddlebred blood. Commendations for the long, beautifully shaped and carried neck. The slightly upright shoulder is very deep, with the remarkably long arm so characteristic of the ASB and a construction which practically guarantees naturally high knee "action". The coupling is set back slightly but the chest is deep and broad all the way back through the loin, and there is no sign of softness or lowness, tension or strain in the back. The head is just beautiful – taking after the Morgan type -- with a wonderful, kind eye belying the high intelligence characteristic of both Morgan and ASB. The horse stands on a very good set of legs with exceptionally broad, clean hocks. Where this gelding falls down is in the very steep and somewhat short pelvis, which gives him the appearance of being chopped off in back. The hind joints carry as much angle at stifle and hock as I would like to see. Also, next time please take a little more care in not only setting the horse up, but in positioning the photographer; although I like the "one hind leg extended to the rear" stance, the near hind leg should not be closer to the camera than is the horse's forequarter.

PART MORGAN GELDING (Exclude P20)

CHAMPION: 60 Rosebrook Worth the Wait



RESERVE: 78 Bunara Tribute



P25 Part Morgan Filly - Foal/Weanling/Yearling (3)

27 Weemala Monte Carlo (Moonbah Fortune Cookie /)

23 Weemala Allure (Briarlane Ebony Fortune /)

64 DAS Perfekt Delight (/ Menora Bella Donna)

P26 Part Morgan Filly - 2-3 Years old (5)

26 Weemala Just Ruby (Briarlane Ebony Fortune /)

30 Weemala Prelude (Briarlane Ebony Fortune /)

39 Sandeli Park Mi Amore (Pelennor Bilbo's Legacy /)

57 Rosebrook Park Centre Stage (Lord of Belvue /)

P27 Part Morgan Mare - 4-5 Years old (3)

1. 59 Rosebrook Sunday Best (Lord of Belvue /)

2. 25 Weemala Cougar (Moonbah Fortune Cookie /)

3. 68 Now in Love (/ Fernleigh Creek Scarlett)

P28 Part Morgan Mare - 6-15 Years Old (2)

1. 77 Weemala Amethyst (Briarlane Ebony Fortune /)

2. 76 KD Jazmine (Karenza Astra /)

P29 Part Morgan Mare - 16 years & over (1)

62 Wirraway Nefertiti (Mt Tawonga Bundara / Aura Dell Robyn)

PART MORGAN MARE (EXCLUDE P25)

CHAMPION: 77 Weemala Amethyst



RESERVE: 59 Rosebrook Sunday Best



Comments on Champion and Reserve:

See my individual comments on these mares, given under classes P-28 and P-27 respectively. Entry no. 77 deserves highest praise at every point, with one exception, her head; and as the wise old man once said, “you don’t ride the head”. Entry no. 59 is not as pretty through the neck as the Champion, or for that matter, several other competitors; but we are not lacking for stallions of most any breed which can contribute either heads or necks. Where this mare shines is absolutely tremendous structure through the hindquarter and that “broody” kind of body that guarantees optimal intrauterine development and problem-free foaling.

Comments from the class

1st: Entry no. 77. This is a fine, foursquare mare that any breeder ought to be proud to own. She’s the sort of mare who can really help a stallion to produce top-quality foals. There’s not much to criticize about her and she gets double-plusses for everything having to do with her topline and thorax. Especially to be commended are the high, chiseled withers and long pelvis which, although a tad steep, has beautiful structure with visible ischium and wide distance between points of hip. The thigh is long and the britches and gaskins muscular. She stands on an exemplary set of legs with excellent breadth and quality of construction at knees and hocks. Her greatest fault is the rather long, somewhat shallow head. The owner is to be commended upon an excellent presentation, the horse as shiny as good conditioning and elbow grease can make it, and complimented by well-chosen, beautifully fitted tack.

1st: Entry no. 59. This horse would have totally distanced all competition had the owner taken the time to stand her up better. The “keespraddled” stance in the no-mane-side photo, with limbs angling all over the place, does not flatter any horse and her win was saved by the mane-side and other photos. It is unwise to make the judge (or potential buyers or clients) work so hard to see your horse’s assets! She is to be commended upon an exceptionally broad, strong coupling and an overall good topline. She stands upon plenty of “bone substance”. The pelvis is absolutely fabulous and this mare presents the best set of hocks in the entire show. Note the breadth of structure in hind view. Her typey Morgan head is beautifully structured and she presents a perky and interested expression.

PART MORGAN (From Champion Gelding and Champion Mare)

77 Weemala Amethyst



Comment on Supreme:

It is almost impossible for a gelding, no matter how beautifully made, to beat out a reproductively capable horse for a show championship, because it is the reproductive horse who will carry the strain into the future. Beyond that, however, the Supreme entry would win on the basis of withers structure and a superb set of legs.

PART MORGAN Foal/Weanling/Yearling (INCLUDE CLASS P20, P25)

CHAMPION: 27 Weemala Monte Carlo



RESERVE: 23 Weemala Allure



Comments on Champion and Reserve:

See my individual comments on these youngsters, given under classes P-20 and P-25). Entry no. 27 is praiseworthy at every point and would be an excellent horse in any company, including purebred Morgan or considered as a partbred representative of another breed; she's just an all-around excellent filly. More difficult was differentiating between Entries no. 23 (filly) and no. 29 (colt); the colt presents some nice points but 23 finally convinces on the basis of better structure through the hindquarters, more substance in the hocks, and better present (and potential future) development of the withers.

Comments from the class

1st: Entry no. 27. Although 2nd place entry presents an array of very nice points, my choice goes to this very beautifully proportioned filly. There is not a single thing I would criticize about her, I commend her at every point, and I further commend the owner/breeder for very astute choice of sire and dam. It is important to mention here that there are two wellknown styles of development in horses. This foal represents the first, in which even at quite a young age we get a good idea of what the animal will look like when mature. Often, foals that belong to this category mature to a smaller size than those that belong to the other category, represented by our 2nd place filly – see below. Smaller size is certainly not a detriment; large horses are subject to soundness issues that horses weighing below 1100 lbs. do not face. I have no doubt that there will always be a rider eager to enjoy this horse, and that the athletic capabilities of this filly will allow that rider to perform or achieve just about anything they desire.

2nd: Entry no. 23. This filly represents the second style of equine development, in which the foal looks somewhat ungainly and disproportionate at an early age. This makes predictions about what the animal will look like when mature more difficult, and the judge and the breeder must rely upon experience with other, similar sorts of foals. I value this filly's stout structure above all. She's going to have huge hindquarters and a very nice shoulder and neck; the jury is still out upon how prominent the withers will be, but I expect considerable development over the next six years. She stands upon a stout, well-made set of legs. I don't hold the convex facial profile against her since I expect this foal is half-Warmblood. There is good bone structure about the orbits and cheekbones, the muzzle is deep enough, and the eyes are set relatively low. Let us look again at this one in five or six years!

P30 Part Morgan Get Of Sire (2)

1. 121 (Comprised of 25, 27, 28) Moonbah Fortune Cookie
2. 120 (Comprised of 23, 26, 30) Briarlane Ebony Fortune

A very difficult class to judge because the get are all of good to excellent quality and very much alike – in fact I have to suspect that they all have the same sire and are thus all brothers or half-brothers. If not then the competing sires may themselves be brothers!

Because of the similarity as well as high quality of all entries in this class, choice of first place devolves to smaller details and slight differences in proportion. In awarding 1st place to sire no. 121, I am valuing gelding no. 25 over gelding 30 because 25 has the longer pelvis and the coupling placed farther forward. I also prefer his neck and head.

P31 Part Morgan Produce Of Dam (1)

1. 130 (Comprised of 64, 65) Menora Bella Donna

GENERAL COMMENTS UPON CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES FOR PARTBRED MORGAN HORSES

First and foremost, in championship purebred classes the winner must present Morgan type. This is true even among the partbreds, because, please note, the title of the class is “Partbred Morgan Horse” not “Partbred Horse”. Winners should be handsome animals that reflect their Morgan heritage.

Of course, no matter how “typey” an individual might be, I would not place a horse who was not also structurally correct, because “type” is neither an elusive nor a subjective quality, but rather is founded upon the proportions of the underlying skeletal structure. Nor is “type” a mere matter of the shape of a horse’s head, the carriage of its tail, or the silhouette outline of its body, but an impression conveyed by the whole animal, which must present both a structural and a functional unity. Therefore, I also value horses with smoothly-fitted bodyparts and structurally strong and substantial build in which the integrated whole is greater than the sum of its parts. This is what is meant by “harmony” in the study of conformation. Harmony is sometimes harder to achieve among partbreds than among purebreds, but certain other breeds consistently cross very well with the Morgan horse, and the produce can be a more useful and sometimes even a more handsome horse than the purebred parent. Please see my suggestions to breeders of partbred Morgans, given below.

In evaluating these animals per their wins in the qualifying classes, I place great emphasis on the strength and placement of the loin coupling (see recommended printed materials if you’re not clear what the “loin coupling” is). I also highly value a level or slightly uphill overall body balance. These two features are major determinants of the ease with which the horse will bridle and collect – and thus also of the quality of the ride (or drive).

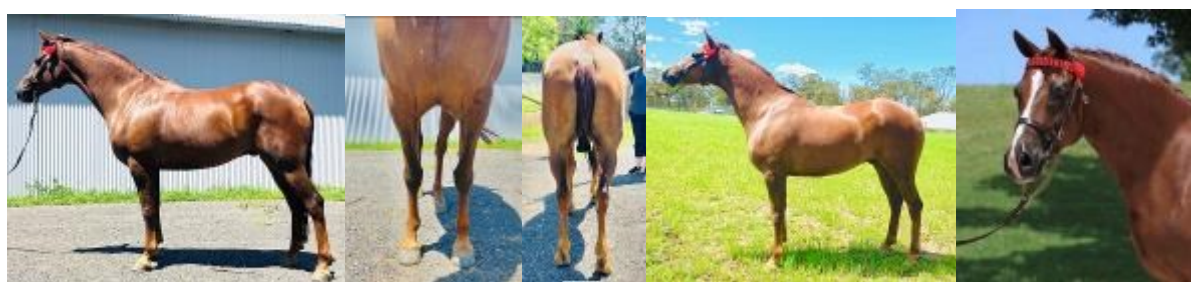
I am generally concerned with the historical tendency toward loss of substance in hocks and forelimbs in the Morgan breed. I also put a premium on the correctness of the anatomical construction of all joints, particularly insofar as the modern population of purebred Morgans is plagued with offset knees, misaligned carpal joints, narrow hocks, and insufficient or barely sufficient “bone” substance. These are areas where the partbred horse can often improve upon its Morgan parent.

PART MORGAN GELDING (Exclude P20)

CHAMPION: 60 Rosebrook Worth the Wait



RESERVE: 78 Bunara Tribute



PART MORGAN MARE (EXCLUDE P25)

CHAMPION: 77 Weemala Amethyst



RESERVE: 59 Rosebrook Sunday Best



SUPREME PART MORGAN

(From Champion Gelding and Champion Mare)

77 Weemala Amethyst



PART MORGAN Foal/Weanling/Yearling (INCLUDE CLASS P20, P25)

CHAMPION: 27 Weemala Monte Carlo

RESERVE: 23 Weemala Allure



GENERAL NOTES ON PRESENTATION RELEVANT TO SEVERAL ENTRIES

Note to owners: Australians, please do not adopt the silly American practice of “stretching” the horse for presentation. “Stretching” first began to be seen in advertising photography for Saddlebreds and Tennessee Walkers during the late 1920’s; it did not begin to infect Morgan practices to any great degree until the 1960’s. Because it flattens the angle of pelvis and croup, “stretching” is a way to disguise a steep croup/pelvis, and can also serve to disguise hind limbs that have either too much or too little angulation at stifle and hock. Stretching also lowers the whole rear end of the horse relative to the forequarter, giving the false impression that the horse “runs uphill”. For those with the tail-carriage fetish, stretching also forces the root of the dock into a higher position. However, although “stretching” may fool a naïve buyer, it can’t fool a knowledgeable judge. To these owners also, I repeat that I had to rotate the photo as submitted about 1.3 degrees to bring vertical background elements (and thus also the horse) to plumb. Unless photos of horses are evaluated “plumb”, any idea about the horse’s real overall body balance will be invalid to the degree that the photo was rotated/tilted. Please, once again, let the Morgan horse speak for itself and eschew shady American practices.

GENERAL NOTES ON PRESENTATION RELEVANT TO SEVERAL ENTRIES (cont)

I think it would be within the rules of this contest to allow you to adjust photo exposure before submitting, either with the camera itself or afterward in Photoshop. Notice the great amount of “fisheye” distortion [a phone] camera imposes – measured by how much naturally vertical background elements to the left and right of the photo appear to lean away from the horse. Please consider using a proper camera (not a cell phone)

Note to owners: [several] photos needed to be rotated to bring the image to level – please Australians, do not adopt the silly American practice of rotating (tilting) photographs of Morgan horses so that (to naïve viewers) the animal appears to have a more “uphill” body balance than it actually possesses. This practice does nothing but serve to disinform and mis-educate not only potential buyers, but the industry itself so that ultimately those who try this deception wind up fooling (and hurting) nobody but themselves. The practice is to the ultimate detriment of the Morgan horse. Let us permit the Morgan horse to speak for itself, and let us endeavor to breed excellent conformation rather than try to create any illusion of it. All competitors in this photo show are encouraged to take and present photos so that elements in the background which would normally be vertical – that is, fenceposts, Eucalyptus trunks, walls of barns or houses – are dead vertical. The horse’s forelimbs should also be plumb vertical.

Note to owners: Permitting or encouraging the horse to lean forward, so that the forelimbs are not vertical, causes the scapula to rotate into a more vertical/steeper orientation (which obviously does not flatter the horse). Differentiate between getting the animal to stretch its neck forward vs. permitting it to lean its whole body forward.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR MORGAN BREEDERS

I am totally excited about the prospects for the Morgan breed in Australia, despite the fact that it remains relatively rare in your country. From my many visits “down under”, I observe that so many people who want to go horseback riding seem to rely on clunky Clydesdales of average or even poor quality, in the belief that this would be the only way they can obtain a goodminded horse with an even temperament. Not so! As we who know the Morgan horse are only too aware – if you want intelligence combined with sweet temperament, there is no finer choice.

I am further pleased and honored to be your judge of the hour, because I am a fan of the OLD FASHIONED kinds of Morgan horses, and these are much more likely to be found outside of America, i.e. in Canada, Australia, and Brazil. Take a look at the recommended reading list which I have provided, for it includes my photo essays on the history of the Morgan which have been printed as a series in the very prestigious and well-edited EQUUS Magazine. Directions are given for how to obtain copies of these articles for those who have not seen them. In a nutshell, what I’m looking for in a Morgan horse is an animal that looks like Black Hawk (sired by Sherman Morgan). I also value the UVM-style, part Thoroughbred “cavalry officer’s” type of Morgan which is suitable more for cross-country riding than for stylish riding or driving but which is still redolent of Morgan type.

Unfortunately the Morgan breed went through several genetic bottlenecks since the beginning of the 20th century which have made it difficult now to get a purebred with a really sufficient set of legs. The breed is plagued with offset and badly-structured knees, and this is an area where the partbred horse can really improve upon its Morgan parent. The purebred horse can also be an undersized, stuffy sort of pony; I need to see sufficient structure and “stretch” to bring it up to the Black Hawk body type, which is, as they used to say, “plump and pleasing” but also elegant and plenty athletic.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS FOR MORGAN BREEDERS (Cont.)

I'm happy to praise the Morgan X American Saddlebred horse to the skies, but I can only praise it as a crossbred. I'd take such a horse home in a minute because I happen to love the old-fashioned, heavier bodied and more substantial ASB which I knew from early on in my career as a horsewoman – and which is now, very unfortunately, almost impossible to find. Crossing ASB with Morgan can restore the fullness of body that the swan-necked, narrow-bodied so-called “extreme” Saddlebreds lack – almost all of whom are descendants of a single ancestor, the stallion Supreme Sultan. At the same time, I have hated to see the purebred Morgan move into what some Americans call “the modern type, like it or leave it.” Well – I don't like a weedy-bodied, swan-necked and soft-backed horse that needs weights attached to its feet in order to “show” well, because no matter what its papers may say, such is not to my mind an authentic Morgan horse; the original type and concept, which are part of the breed standard are unique and highly valuable, have been lost.

In my experience, certain breeds cross well upon the Morgan, reliably producing handsome, proportionate horses useful for a variety of athletic tasks and forms of work. At the head of this list for Australians should be the Australian Stock Horse – I am speaking of the old type, that has little to no Quarter Horse blood. The ASH began with importations to Australia of horses which settlers imported from – guess where? – New England. In other words, the ASH itself shares ancestry with the Morgan and this almost guarantees a “smooth” cross that will produce very saleable young horses.

Two other breeds which cross well with the Morgan are, as I have already mentioned, the American Saddlebred and the Thoroughbred. TB's are far more common in Australia than ASB's, and the ASB's that can be found in Australia are not always of the best type. However, ASB semen can be obtained and I would certainly consider this – not from America, but from Canada, where the older and more substantial style of ASB continues to persist (thank goodness).

In America, the Arabian is a popular cross with the Morgan to produce the so-called “Morab”. I am not, however, a fan of this cross and cannot recommend it. The horses, for whatever mysterious reason rooted in their genes, tend, alas, to inherit the worst features of both breeds. Some American breeders have the totally wrongheaded, silly and superficial idea that there is something wrong with the shape of the Morgan horse's head, classically with its undulating facial profile that incorporates a rise or bump over the nose, and their incentive for producing Morabs is to “improve” the Morgan by sticking an Arabian head on the front end of a Morgan-shaped body. Frankly, I am not attracted to this sort of cross at all and I don't have much respect for crossbreeding when it is carried out for such superficial reasons. There is nothing whatsoever wrong with the handsome, classic Morgan head, “thank you very much.”

Where you see me criticizing an entry's head, it will be because the animal lacks prominent bone structure supporting the orbits and cheekbones, has a narrow forehead with insufficient breadth between the eyes, has the orbits placed too high in the skull, or has a shallow muzzle or jawbone. Notice too that you will never hear me say, “the horse's eyes need to be bigger” or praise a horse for having large eyeballs. What we praise instead is the bone structure that supports the eyeballs. Too many misinformed breeders have produced trite parodies of “my little pony” – bug-eyed and with bulging foreheads -- rather than handsome animals with correctly conformed heads with plenty of breathing room and space for the proper eruption of the teeth.

Another cross that is sometimes tried is Morgan X Quarter Horse, but again, for whatever reason in my experience this rarely works well. What tends to happen in this case is that we wind up with the Quarter Horse swamping out all Morgan type, so that you get produce with huge butts but also the upright shoulder and short arm typical of the Quarter Horse. We do not want to produce horses whose overall body balance runs downhill. It is possible to find Quarter Horses with level body balance – look for these particularly among ranch-bred, roper, and reining-horse bloodlines. A mare from these bloodlines will have a much greater chance of producing an acceptable foal to Morgan cover.

Draft crosses with Morgan can sometimes work, if you want a large horse; the tendency will be for it to be good-bodied, but you'll need to be very careful to look for adequate bone substance and correct construction among the Clydies and Percherons. Some of the best Morgan crosses are produced on pony mares: try Welsh or Connemara. Also, a good adopted Brumby can make a great part-Morgan producer, and for our friends in New Zealand, the origin of your Kaimanuas is, like the Brumbies and the original Australian Stock Horse, similar to the origin of the Morgan itself.

Warmbloods have been all the rage over the past forty years, and they can cross well on the Morgan, especially when the breeder realizes that most so-called "Warmblood" horses would be more correctly termed by the old German usage "halb-blut", because they are in fact 95% or better Thoroughbred. Stay away from the worst-tempered German bloodlines (G-line Hanoverians and Furiosos) – not even a Morgan sire can correct this problem, and why would you bother anyway? Instead look to the Dutch bloodlines, for the Dutch have been far more careful to produce tractable horses with outstandingly excellent structure, particularly with respect to limb substance and hock and knee breadth. Stay away, however, from Friesians; a duller horse you will never find, and many of them are rubber-backed, tubular-bodied, insubstantial animals that stand too high on their legs. Horse feathers are just that: horsefeathers. The silly current fad for very hairy horses, which has sold a lot of Friesians and Gypsy Vanners to foolish Americans, cannot be the basis for any sound or sustainable breeding program.

By contrast I'd like to suggest trial of American Standardbred mares for cover by the Morgan horse. Standardbreds (racing trotters) are cheap to obtain and thousands get retired from the track and go begging for homes. The Standardbred (along with several other kinds of horse already mentioned), shares Morgan ancestry, its mare bloodlines almost all being derived from late 19th-century Morgan sires. They are old-fashioned horses with good withers and substantial and correctly formed limbs, and they are as good-minded a horse as you can find anywhere outside of the Quarter Horse and Morgan. Cover by a Morgan stallion, especially of Standardbred mares selected for longer and more shapely necks, should produce foals that grow into horses resembling the UVM type of Morgan – the kind of horse that will stay sound and provide its owner long years of useful and pleasurable riding.

SUGGESTED READING MATERIAL

There is an old and highly useful literature pertaining to the study of equine conformation. The high period came in the 19th century when literally every societal function from warfare to transportation, agriculture to city deliveries of goods and services, in all countries around the world, required horses. Horse fairs and competitions were once much more highly contested, had many more entries in more diverse categories, and were considered very important for men (not women) to attend (because it was almost exclusively men who bred, trained, evaluated, and purchased horses). That situation has, of course, reversed completely today so that now women are by far the majority horse breeders, trainers, owners, riders, and buyers.

I recommend three classic works upon which all modern conformation judging is based:

Hays, Matthew Horace, DVM. First ed. 1893, revised in 1904. *Points of the Horse: A Familiar Treatise on Equine Conformation*. Hurst and Blackett, London. 736 p.

Goubaux, Armand C., DVM and Gustav Barrier, DVM. 1892. *De L'Exterieur du Cheval*. Asselin, Paris. Simultaneous London edition in English, entitled *The Exterior of the Horse*. 916 p.

Rau, Gustav. 1935. *Die Beurteilung des Warmblutpferdes*. 62 p. Reprinted in English by Olmes Press, Hildesheim, Germany in 1992.

Any of these can be purchased used and/or in reprinted form. This costs about \$150USD for Hays, about \$100USD for Goubaux and Barrier, and about \$35USD for Rau. All of them should be in every horse breeder's library.

The reason these books are the classic works in the field is that their authors understood and taught the principles of conformation analysis. All of them had an excellent training in equine anatomy and they knew not only the equine skeleton, but understood how the skeleton within relates to the body contours and proportions without. They did NOT teach “judging contests” – as Gustav Rau said, “I am looking not for judges who can pick faults, but rather for horsemen who can pick horses.”

In his books, Rau goes out of his way to present horses that have “supposedly” faulty conformation, who nonetheless were champions in Germany and Europe. He can do this because many of the traditionally-recognized faults are actually not faults at all. On the other hand, there are some aspects of conformation which are usually either misunderstood or else totally overlooked that are highly important determinants of the quality of the ride and of the horse’s potential for long-term soundness under saddle or harness. Despite their status as classics, the books by Hayes and by Goubaux and Barrier both contain serious errors as to horse structure and function – errors which have been perpetuated, year after year for over a century, in books by other authors, in magazine articles, and in the influential handbooks of the F.E.I. and Pony Club.

I go to some effort in my 1986 book *Principles of Conformation Analysis* (originally published by Fleet Street/EQUUS and now available from Equibooks.com) to explain and illustrate the important but often-overlooked points mentioned by Rau, and to correct the errors in Hayes and Goubaux and Barrier. These relate to structure and function of the loin coupling, the base of the neck, the turnover from neck to head, overall body balance, skull structure, dentition, pelvic structure with long (visible) ischium, shield-shaped knees and hocks that are broad as measured in hind view from the inner to the outer surface. I also explain the true reason why horses “toe out” or “toe in” and why this is not a structural or conformation fault but a problem with carriage and posture. Likewise I explain what “cow hocks” really are – cow-hocked stance is NOT merely a question of having the hocks orient inward in rear view, which taken by itself is not a fault at all but rather represents normal hindlimb stance in all mammals. In “Principles” I teach how to properly evaluate the structural correctness of both fore and hindlimbs by assessing their alignment in a plane which is not, in either case, to be oriented parallel to the midline plane of the horse’s body. Since I repeatedly mention these points in the judging commentary for this show, I am in hopes that some Australian breeders at least will be interested in improving their grasp of equine conformation and biomechanical functioning by reading this book.

Since 1986, I have also produced a “new series” of conformation studies, published in EQUUS Magazine several years ago. These articles explain in more detail all the abovementioned points and have the advantage of larger-sized illustrations produced in color.

I have also very recently (2016) produced a new book, *Conformation Basic Skills: Workbook no. 1* (Equine Studies Institute publishing) which is designed to stand as a kind of practical laboratory manual for people who want to learn how to analyze conformation both live and from photographs. It is spiral-bound to make it handy to take along to the stable, and it contains good photos and illustrations covering both conformation and function. There are exercises for self-testing and a useful glossary of terms.

I have made arrangements with the Australian Morgan Horse Association to make these materials available to all members. Please contact the Association office to request copies, which I have made available for the mere cost of the postage from California to Australia, with no charge for the books and articles themselves.

My best wishes to all Australian Morgan horse breeders, and many thanks again for asking me to judge your photographic horse show for the “insight” year 2020.

Sincerely,

Deb Bennett, Ph.D., Director Equine Studies Institute
and
Consulting Editor and Feature Columnist, EQUUS Magazine
and
Research Associate, The University of Kansas Museum of Natural History

From Quietude, West Virginia

Rarely does life line up with time so perfectly. The Criterion son Cimarron of Quietude was 31 years old when he returned home to his birthplace at Quietude, having left more than a quarter of a century earlier. I had managed to keep track of him for a number of years and knew he was having a good life and was a productive stallion in the Far West. He was found in Wyoming by our Lambert breeders Joyce Napotnik and Gary Napier who had traced him to his elderly owner to find that she had been searching for a safe home for her endearing 'PaPa'. Joyce had him transported to her farm in Pennsylvania where she bred Cimarron to her lovely Maple Spring Savannah. From that breeding came his first clean-blooded Lambert foal the splendid Maple Spring Indigo Ash.

When Cimarron arrived at Quietude he quickly made a place in our hearts with his quiet gentle soul, his remarkable good health, vitality and soundness—fertility too! He left forever our high green valley late in his 33rd year but not before conceiving Cezanne from our most excellent mare Quietude Wild Tansy. With Cezanne, and as with Criterion, we had a perfect balance of the Lambert and Woodbury blood from those two ancient Morgan families. It was the same union as had happened in the early days of the Morgan breed. Now, again this integration has been successful because of the diverse ancestry behind the Lambert family that has let us maintain both close and line breeding successfully during our half century effort preserving the clean-blooded Lambert Morgan family with its unique sire line.

With perfect timing and little did we know that the far reaches of Australia were waiting for Cezanne. Enter Eva Hornung and our many email discussions—Morgan horses, breeding them of course but also photos, videos, hay-making, farming, drought, fire and with all that came our friendship. Cezanne was only a yearling when Eva arrived at Quietude but who he was was of deep interest to Eva. She spent many hours communing with him, whispering in his ears perhaps—I don't know what but he must have listened and knew things I didn't know during those many hours. The next year he was on his way to Australia.

Cezanne is gone afar and I will never see him again nevertheless I would have him nowhere else. What he has left with me is having known something else, that he is unique within himself among all our Lamberts as there is something unexplainable that I have felt come from him, as has Eva, an inexplicable inner controlled intensity—and yet a stillness there. I know that Eva could put it into better words that I cannot. There is a deep caregiver in him too, each of our many foal crops have yielded several colts in need for companionship with each other and to practice their 'stallion arts' as they grew and that was there for them. But we had no other colts at weaning time for Cezanne so we substituted a 'nanny aunt', our Mandalay, who was a companion and a kindly disciplinarian. Again, our foal crop left us with but one colt at weaning time, Raphael. We trusted Cezanne's kindness and quiet nature and put them together. Cezanne was gentle, patient and protective of his very young charge. With their play Cezanne was never rough and they shared grain and grass and both prospered.

The sadness came when Cezanne left for Australia, vanishing overnight so suddenly that Raphael was forlorn and grieving. Both he and I had lost something dear to us. We have recovered though, and both of us thriving. And there is Cezanne in a far-away land and just in time to start another generation for the historic Lambert family and with a new/old blood pool to offer Australian Morgan lovers and even to be a part of the wonder of Dr. Deb Bennett and the amazing Australian Morgan Horse Conformation Photo Show with all its excellent Aussie Morgans!

Cimarron of Quietude



Susan Hanley, March 2020

Quietude Wild Tansy





Cezanne as a foal



Cezanne shortly before leaving Quietude



Cezanne's dam Wild Tansy, with Kipling, and Picasso in the background



**Criterion -
1964 at 2 years at Fran Bryants farm South
Woodstock Vermont**



Cimarron aged 32



Cimarron of Quietude

Photo Show 2020 Results

Novelty Classes – people's choice judging

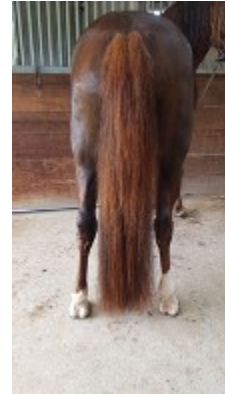
P32 Loveliest Mane

1. 56 Lord of Belvue
2. 73 Leambro Centurion
3. 43 Weemala Fortune Cookie
4. 40 Challa Station Captivate



P33 Loveliest Tail

1. 56 Lord of Belvue
2. 42 Glentruin Tristan
3. 45 Fernleigh Creek Ashadear
4. 79 Tui's Moana



P34 Shiniest Coat

1. 77 Weemala Amethyst
2. 12 Watching Moonshadows
3. 39 Sandeli Park Mi Amore
4. 31 Mountain Crk Cartier



New Members

Welcome to new pure bred owners:

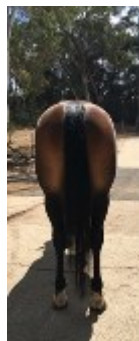
Kate Todd of Darwin NT (Bellemond Tomi)

Jackie Ladhams of Flaxman Valley SA (Fernleigh Creek Evenfire)

and after a long time absent - Simone and Chloe Riley of Wamberal NSW
(Red Bluff Sovereign, Wilga Park Chancellor and Wilga Park Arizona Sunset)

P35 Best rump

1. 47 Red Bluff Cameo
2. 44 Fernleigh Creek Sabien
3. 52 Fernleigh Creek Orla
4. 40 Challa Station Captivate



P36 Prettiest Mare

1. 65 DAS Prima Donna
2. 45 Fernleigh Creek Ashadear
3. 70 Wilga Park Liana
4. 12 Watching Moonshadows



P37 Handsomest Gelding

1. 33 Mountain Crk Qwaid
2. 78 Bunara Tribute
3. 22 Weemala Skylark
4. 60 Rosebrook Worth the Wait



P38 Most Spectacular Stallion

1. 73 Leambro Centurion
2. 31 Mountain Crk Cartier



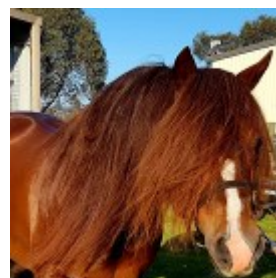
P39 Dirtiest Morgan

1. 72 Baptiste Levis Strauss
2. 73 Leambro Centurion
3. 79 Tui's Moana
4. 57 Rosebrook Centre Stage



P40 Hairiest Morgan

1. 56 Lord of Belvue
2. 12 Watching Moonshadows
3. 79 Tui's Moana
4. 40 Challa Station Captivate



P41 Naughtiest Morgan

1. 36 Challa Station Tarantella
2. 49 Red Bluff Evoke
3. 79 Tui's Moana/12 Watching Moonshadow
4. 27 Weemala Monte Carlo



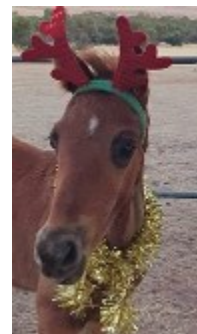
P42 Hungriest Morgan

1. 79 Tui's Moana
2. 12 Watching Moonshadows
3. 45 Fernleigh Creek Ashadear



P43 Fancy Dress

1. 58 Rosebrook Park Go Figure
2. 12 Watching Moonshadows
3. 55 Mt Tawonga Campbell
4. 79 Tui's Moana



Novelty “Versatility”: the loveliest, bestest, prettiest, handsomest, specciest, naughtiest, dirtiest, hairiest, shiniest, hungriest and best dressed up of them all.

1. **79 Tui's Moana** with 373 votes
2. 56 Lord of Belvue with 359 votes
3. 12 Watching Moonshadows with 356 votes
4. 73 Leambro Centurion with 304 votes

Highest scoring Pure Bred in a single class

56. Lord of Belvue in Hairiest Morgan 173 votes



Highest scoring Part Bred in a single class

65 DAS Prima Donna in Prettiest Mare 95 votes





*Meet your new
Youth Liaison Officer
Maddy Bennett*



Eatons Hill Maple

Hi, my name is Madison Bennett and I am the youth liaison officer for 2020. I feel so privileged to be able to have this role and want to thank those people who supported my nomination.

Over the last 2 and a half years I have been competing and riding Eatons Hill Morgan stud's mare Wilga Park Lisianthus in dressage, hacking, jumping and much more. At the 2019 State show, I won the Youth high point and youth championship. It was a great day for Lisi and me.



Wilga Park Lisianthus

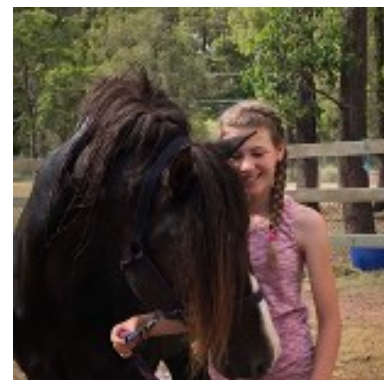


I have also had the privilege of riding Wirraway Manhattan, Eatons Hill Malou, and Clover County Mya.



Clover County Mya

For 2020 I recently competed on Clover County Mya for dressage and was happy to come fourth overall and first in junior riders.



Wirraway Manhattan

My 2020 goal is to support junior Morgan riders and their horses and to be a sponsored rider for Ariat in dressage and show jumping. Please feel free to email me and send photos about your beautiful Morgans and you or if you just want to talk or put in a suggestion for junior riders.

My email is ylo@morganhorse.com.au

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards Maddy.



Meet your new QLD SLO

Leonie Smith Of Leambro Morgans

Just a few words to introduce myself as the new Qld SLO for those who don't know me. Steve and I have only had the privilege of owning horses during the past 9 to 10 years as up to that time we lived in suburbia and only bought our property at Rosewood when he retired from the Police Force.

In the beginning Steve was into stock horses until I was given a free pass to the EKKA and went to the Breed Display. I know I am not alone in saying this but that day and meeting Ranchboss Cortez for the first time started our love affair with the Morgan Horse. I know he has started a lot of Morgan people on this wonderful journey with these magnificent horses.

We started Leambro with the importation of a grey stallion SFG Drayton from Michigan who we sadly lost in a paddock accident but luckily, we have a few of his progeny and now 1 granddaughter of his. We now have over 23 Morgans (feel like a hoarder but at least it's not loo paper). We have 3 stallions, Leambro Somelikeithot (on lease to Wendy Brown), Leambro Centurion (on lease to Phoenix Whitten) and of course the magnificent Baptiste Levis Strauss who we had the privilege of purchasing a few of years ago.

That's a little bit about me (us), just a couple of old folks currently self-isolating like the rest of the world. God willing it will all be over soon, and life can get back to some normality. We are lucky as you all are to have your wonderful Morgans to smooch with when times get tough. Stay well everyone.

Leonie Smith
Leambro Morgans



Leonie Smith & Leambro Frangelico



News from Gabbe Szykowski & King's Angel

King's Angel (Red Bluff Lara/Mt Tawonga King) and I began Garrocha lessons recently.

We had joined the Central Victorian Working Equitation (CVWE) group at Neilborough in Victoria last year. Unfortunately, Angel suffered a bout of laminitis in August last year, so was out of action for a while.

Her treating vet (Arthur Young) desperately wanted to keep her because of her indomitable attitude and accepting behaviour during treatment and rehabilitation. He is Victoria's oldest full-time practicing vet (80 years old). His wife informed me that Arthur has treated thousands of horses and never wanted to keep any of them. That was until he met Angel. She kept trying so hard for him, every day, as he lunged her 80 times around his roundyard. Arthur's faith in her was praise enough, but to get my girl home and rideable was incredible. He ordered that she was to be ridden 10km every day at a strong trot. We did this (she never once shirked her duty) and totted up a lot of kms together in the 'Morgans for Pleasure' program.

We attended our first CVWE meeting of 2020 in February and Angel didn't look back. Last year she was petrified of the pole; this year she said, "Ok, let's give it a go".

Wielding a 12' bamboo pole while sitting on a 500kg beast is a challenge in itself. When you choreograph 'dance' moves with that...well it becomes interesting.

Angel was so well behaved. After 45 minutes of learning, she clearly needed to stop and pigrooted at the canter. The pole went one way and I almost went another way.

Since her laminitis she has changed. I'm told that is not unusual. Angel is somewhat sour now and is no longer the joyful mount I loved riding. She's still fun, outgoing, and willing, but just not quite the same horse.

Working Equitation is such a brilliant mode of horse riding that includes so many facets of equitation.

Gabbe Szykowski



We're all well at Ballamara Morgans, its actually green here for this time of the year!

Ballamara Royal Cruise (Zeus) by Watching Royalty x Moonbah Tempest Cruise (PT Cruiser) is growing nicely, he's so sweet & adorable 🐾. I've got some nice photos of him with his owner Viki. Thankyou Ngaire for leasing me your beautiful mare :)



Ballamara Royal Cruise (Zeus)



Ballamara Royal Cruise (Zeus) & owner Viki Hurnal

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editor@morganhorse.com.au

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Meet your new WA SLO



Western Australia

Melissa Guest

Hello, my name is Melissa Guest and the new State Liaison Officer for Western Australia

I've been a Morgan owner for 6 years. Bucky (Hodgson Park Buckingham) came into my life at 16mths.

I have three horses in my herd, two Arabians and Buck, two breeds that couldn't be more different. I adore my beautiful Arabians, who are both now in semi-retirement. Being of mature age, I was looking for a horse that would take me safely through the rest of my riding years. Bucky is doing just that, he is a willing, brave, laid back and careful partner.

As all of you, I am totally besotted with the Morgan breed and have a lot of pleasure showing off my Morgan on social media, out and about at rallies and events with the hope that horse lovers out there will discover the magic of the Morgan Horse. Buck is somewhat of a superstar in the eyes of people who know him. He is doing a great job promoting the Morgan breed in WA, he probably doesn't need my help at all, but together side by side we love having fun together showing off the versatility and the joy of sharing time with a Morgan.

We are looking forward to meeting interstate members and showing off our beautiful Morgan's at the ANMS at Brookleigh in November. In the meantime, keep safe, healthy and happy in these extraordinary times.

Melissa Guest



Hello from WA. Bucky (Hodgson Park Buckingham) and I were ready, willing, able and excited for some fun at the ANMS, then Coronachaos erupted. The very wise decision was made to postpone, but out of great disappointment some silver linings. Buck and I were hoping to enter the Versatility, because indeed just like all our Morgans, versatile they surely are, but we had done very little longlining and that course!!! No way. So, postponing till November will give us time to practice, practice, practice. I am so fortunate that my horses are at our property so for me this self-isolation period will enable me to spend a lot more time with my herd.

So, what have we been up to? Buck's breeder Rachel Whan has been giving me much needed lessons. Those are now on hold, but thanks to technology she can still guide me along. Buck is now 7, fit and ready for some proper riding, if his human can get her act together. Here Rachel has been a huge help. We are progressing well, and I have experienced moments of total magic and joy riding this boy, this is what riding is about, well I never thought it was possible until now! Watching Rachel ride him has shown me exactly what is possible, very inspiring during my frequent times of frustration. I asked Rachel if she would enter him in the ANMS dressage competition which she did, and they looked awesome. Thanks Rach :)



All events of course now are cancelled, prior to that Buck and I were still enjoying Working Equitation, perfect for the "can do" Morgan, Western Dressage and generally having fun out and about.

For now, our aim is to get the hang of long reining and smooth out the canter, transitions. So much is possible with this horse. Loving my Morgan.



The company of a good horse offers some stability in these trying times, and so many people around the world are not as fortunate as we are. At least when you own a horse, it can be somewhat easier to self-isolate and still have a friend to hug.

The fact that the ANMS was cancelled just as things were starting to get real, was a good choice for WA. There was a 48 hour period when we were not sure which way it would go and we hoped it would still run. It was cancelled as Wendy Brown and her friend Jess were mid-flight across the Nullarbor, Wendy was on her way to ride Tandarra Millennium (Lenny) at the show. The cancellation of the ANMS was a minor disruption that we turned into a positive. Wendy and Jess made their way to Challa Station to visit us and have a look at how our horses live.

At the moment, the mares and foals are living as The Lost Herd of Challa. After brilliant summer rains, there is so much green grass around that they choose not to come in every day for breakfast and health checks. When Wendy and Jess arrived, the first thing we wanted to do was go out and see if we could find the horses in their 10 000-acre paddock. Luckily we found them, because when we did, Mt Tawonga Belinda (Holly) was exhibiting signs of mild colic. I left Wendy and Jess in the middle of nowhere with the horses while I rushed back for the flunixin. One IV injection later and Holly was fine. We kept the whole herd in overnight so we could keep an eye on Holly and play with the foals.



Definitely not show behaviour! Wendy and Debbie have a laugh



Lenny and Willow longreining practice

We used the cancellation of the ANMS to hold the Challa Station Morgans No Show. Wendy and I had a lot of fun riding Lenny and Challa Station Willow, sometimes trying to be serious but mostly doing things that you would never do at a show. We gave every horse a prize, some got lots of prizes. Jess was our unofficial no-show photographer so we got some great pics. It was a great opportunity for Wendy to try Lenny out without the pressure of the show. She also was able to see, firsthand, how well natured Willow is as a riding and driving mare.

The Photo Conformation Show brought some great prizes across to the Challa Station Morgans. Of note were Mountain Creek Cartier's comments from Dr Deb Bennett. She said,

"A very nice colt with "smooth" conformation. The neck, shoulder, and pelvis are lovely. This colt's strongest feature is the "uphill" body balance."

Cartier placed second behind Eva's Supreme Champion, Quietude Cezanne. Dr Bennett also loved Challa Station Spinifex and awarded him reserve champion foal/weanling/yearling.

The Photo Show was a valuable opportunity for me to have my horses assessed by a real expert. Although it is just a photo assessment and can never compare to a real-life show, the fact that we had access to a world leading conformation expert is something that would be difficult to have in a real-life show in WA. We take her comments on board in our constant endeavour to breed top quality horses. And even though it is damned hard to beat those South Australian Morgans, we know we have some good ones here at Challa, too.

We hope that everybody stays safe, stays at home and keeps enjoying their Morgans. Social distancing is the new norm, and take it from me, it doesn't make you weird.



Willow won loads of ribbons at the No Show

It's been a while since I contributed and a few things have been happening, especially in the lead up to the ANMS— I am sure the only one happy about the cancellation was my Morgan who was happy to start his break a week earlier than planned! So here is what I have been up to in the past few months.



**Crossmatch My Alibi
arriving at home**

First exciting news is that I bought a new Morgan!!! Crossmatch My Alibi (Morgan/TB – Beau's Western Edition) has joined my herd and I now own 3 horses all by the wonderful sire that is Beau's Western Edition. She has settled in well and I have already had one small ride on her. Although it has been years since she has had someone on her back, the true Morgan temperament shone through. Over the next few months she will be allowed to settle in more, we'll get to know each other a bit better and hopefully get some riding time in over winter. Come spring she will be off to a Stud and breed us our next generation of Morgans. My daughter has a personal goal of starting her own horse, and this baby will be ready to start when she is about 16/17 years old and we will do this together, a 5 year plan but gives us something to look forward to and work towards.

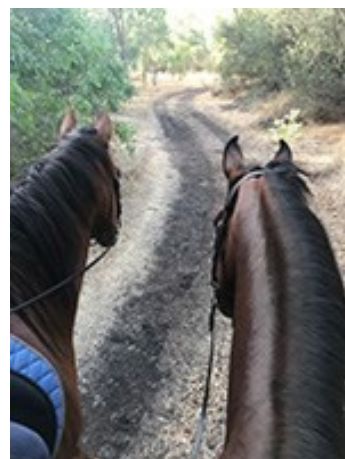
While all of this has been happening, I have been using all my free time to practice for the ANMS.

Crossmatch Regal Edition (Beau's Western Edition/Ereistay Zerlina) has been having a go at anything and everything – basically if I had a riding commitment he was it so that he got worked as much as possible. His true Morgan versatility shone through as he turned his hand to all types of disciplines. In fact, in one 3 day period he has a dressage training lesson (where my coach really put him through his paces!), Saturday he was training with the SES Mounted Section, Sunday morning my Daughter rode him at Pony Club and in the afternoon I did a trial of Team Riding for an upcoming Adult Riders competition. The improvement in the work he is producing over the 6 weeks leading up to the show has been quite remarkable. My dressage instructor also loaned me a western saddle to give that a go, and after seeing us work in it has sold it to me as she can't believe how well he took to it in the one hour lesson we had! So that is now a new thing we are going to pursue this year. We've also been to show jumping days,



**Crossmatch Regal Edition at SES
Mounted Training**

bush riding with friends trialling new, anxious horses, daughter practicing for the barrel racing when out bush riding and lots of lots of schooling in arena's and even in the bush when we get to an open area. So, while he is happy that he is now getting a break from the schooling (and competitions of course!), I can't wait for November to attend the postponed show.



**Tandom Miss Scarlett and Cross-
match Regal Edition trail riding**

And finally, Tandom Miss Scarlett has been taking it pretty easy. Although I am sure she got her nose out of joint when I took Reg to SES training (which is definitely her thing!). But the silver lining has been that my Daughter has had to ride her with me when we go bush riding – she has never had the confidence to really ride her, but recently this was our only riding option (and I needed to school Reg). Well they have both loved it, my lacking in confidence Daughter is suddenly leaving me and cantering (fast!) all over the place. Not sure who loves it more, Taleah or Scarlett and they are finally the team I have hoped they would become (patience pays as it has been a 12 year wait!). Now when we go riding, there is no arguing on who is riding who – and I will allow them to experiment and learn together through this journey knowing that despite the speed and craziness sometimes, underlies the true temperament that would never do anything naughty. In fact, I have witnessed Scarlett duck under Taleah and "pick her up" as she has lost her balance when they get too fast – my heart swells with pride when I see them both together. Hopefully by November, they may even be able to enter the ANMS (fingers crossed!)

Natalie



Crossmatch Regal Edition versatility collage

Here in NSW COVID-19 has closed all horse events down and most people are in self isolation at home and working from home, and only going out for food or doctor appointments. I hope everyone stays safe at this time and can cope with self isolation.

Caroline Lee from Armidale

An update on Pure Bred gelding Cockatoo Park Saffron (Ranchboss Cortez x Red Bluff Paprika), foaled November 2018.



Saffron is enjoying life in Armidale. He is growing nicely and is very enthusiastic and clever. He enjoys learning new things and getting attention.

We love having him in our family.

Regards,
Caroline



News from Omar Morgans here in beautiful Collector.

We are following the self isolation that has been put in place at this time. Thankfully we have plenty of space between us and our neighbours. I did receive a visitor this last week when Helga Frolich came to pick up Equinox Cashmere after she had been here since July 2018. Cashmere has produced a beautiful big filly for us by Warlock's Eminent Domain that we have named Omar Chantilly, and is in foal to Omar Enchanting Breeze due for Helga in November this year.



Omar Morgans Youngones

We have finally received some rain and the grass is now starting to grow and the horses are very happy to be able to feed themselves even if is only for a short time. Our older young ones are still growing and filling out very nicely, we are very happy with what we have in our paddocks.

Take Care and stay safe



Omar Morgans Omar Chantilly at 5 ½ months of age

Thank you so very much Helga for giving us this opportunity to produce a beautiful filly out of Cashmere she has been a pleasure to have at our property and she will be missed. Omar Chantilly is now weaned and she has taken it very well and it does help when you have 4 geldings and one other filly to help you get over your mother leaving without you.



Omar Morgans mares and foals



Catch up from Nila Latimer

From bushfires and droughts to flooding rains

and string halt to Covid-19 and I had been ever hopeful that 2020 was going to be a good year. However it isn't really showing any signs of being a good year. Whilst I am very grateful to have rain and grass instead of dry crispy grass and smoke filled air, I was not happy to find that the sudden, rapid growth of flat weed in my paddocks in early-February has resulted in 3 of my 4 horses coming down with string halt. When the only cure for string halt is to remove the horses from the affected pasture, this becomes a major problem if all of one's paddocks are infested with flatweed. I am very fortunate that my next door neighbour has been willing to share a small flat weed free paddock with Eclipse (Wilga Park Eclipse). Tant (Red Bluff Tantalus) and Roy (Haymeron Park Vice Royal) have both exhibited very mild symptoms of stringhalt but Eclipse came down with pretty bad symptoms. I would not have been able to move him to a new place as I don't think he would have coped with a float trip and certainly could not have backed out of a float.

After my experience with Wilga Park Tarragon 2 years ago, I couldn't bare the idea of trying to float a stringhalt victim and having him fall over in the float. With Tarragon it was really terrifying when he fell over in the float and he took a year to recover from the stringhalt. I was very depressed thinking that Eclipse (who before stringhalt was the best moving of all my horses) might take a year to recover but thankfully he is looking a lot better and I remain ever hopeful that he may recover in a much shorter time.

Tant and Roy can move quite well but occasionally make strange stumbles with their back legs. Roy's back leg stumbles only occur sometimes so I have continued to ride him and I even entered and rode him in the ANMS online dressage competition.

As this is the second time that horses on my property have come down with stringhalt, I have made the very difficult decision (which goes totally against the grain for me) to spray the flat weed as it is everywhere on my property.

I had hoped to take Eclipse to his first competition on 16th February but stringhalt put paid to that and even though the competition had to be postponed due to monsoonal rainfall, he has not recovered in time for the postponed date so he couldn't compete.

However on 7th March we were able to compete in the ANMS online dressage competition. Liz Baynham and Helen Palfreeman came down to my place with Cabernet (Wilga Park Cabernet) and Bo (Wilga Park Boquila). It was really hard work to get our 4 dressage tests videoed as the weather was far from ideal. Liz on Cabernet and Helen on Bo both competed in the Preliminary 1C and I rode Roy and Sabre in the Medium 4A. We each had to rush out between heavy downpours of rain. I had to change out of soaking wet clothes 3 times during that filming session and then my iphone ran out of space but we finally managed to get one go each at our tests.

The following day I had Sabre entered in my local dressage club's competition. After my soaking the day before, I wasn't keen to compete again in the rain but I was keen to get some decent photos of Sabre before he became a woolly mammoth. Fortunately my good friend Rachael was willing to come out in the rain to take some photos. Although we didn't get the scores I would have liked (missing out on 60% scores by 0.25%), Sabre did attract a lot of admirers which was very pleasing for me and Rachael managed to get some nice photos. I imagine it will not be long till we are all in total lockdown so I'm glad that I've had a go at online dressage. I think I will continue to enter the horse competitions online for the foreseeable future.

We are expecting and have prepared for total lockdown and although that will be tedious, I am very thankful that I live out on a property rather than in suburbia and that I should still be able to ride my horses (the ones who are not too stringhalt affected) and grow vegetables. Let's hope we all stay safe and that the pandemic is over sooner than expected.

Nila Latimer



Nila Latimer riding Wilga Park Silver Sabre

Farewell

Margaret Gardiner

The Morgan Breed lost a great friend, champion & Breeder in February 2020.

Margaret Gardiner was Kennebec Morgans, and the list of her horses accomplishments is long and legendary.

Ride In Paradise Miss G. I'm sure Count & Russel met you at the Bridge.



Miss G & her beloved Kennebec Count

WOOLWICH – Miss Margaret Gardiner, 98, died February 13, 2020, in her Woolwich, Maine, home.

“Miss G” had her first horse from 1927 to 1932 and purchased her first Morgan horse, Bayfield, in 1948. Peggy produced over 250 foals and dedicated her breeding to producing useful and sound horses that would have strength, agility, durability, and great temperament. She led the way in demonstrating Morgan horses could compete effectively in driving, dressage and jumping. Two of her horses, Kennebec Count and Kennebec Russell, were the first two Morgans ever selected by the United States Equestrian Team for international competition. Larry Poulin won the pair-combined driving National Championship with Count and Russell and went on to win a three-way tie for first in dressage at the world championships in Sandringham, England in 1985.



**Margaret Gardiner with
Mary Fournier & Tiger Lily**

Her stallion, Kennebec Commander, who resides at the Woolwich farm, is a direct descendent of Kennebec Count and the last hope to continue her remarkable breeding program. Margaret invested substantial research dollars at the University of Pennsylvania addressing Ataxia and equine neurological defects. She did extensive work with the Girl Scouts, the 4-H, and the Pony Club introducing young girls to horses and the valuable lessons learned operating a farm. While Peggy received innumerable awards and recognition for her leadership in the Morgan horse world, her greatest satisfaction was improving and sustaining the breed.

