Queensland Arabian horse aficionados were delighted and honoured to organise horse-related events to showcase their beautiful equines to our international guests. The equine activities kicked off with a Parade of Horses on Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

As their bus pulled up at the Gatton Indoor Equestrian Facility at noon, the group were greeted by friendly locals along with abundant sunshine, high humidity and a temperature of 37 degrees Celsius!

The parade of 18 horses was organised by Deb Watson and her capable crew of helpers. Our visitors appreciated the variety of horses shown, which included Arabian Derivatives and Purebreds shown in-hand and under saddle. It was a challenging day for everyone weatherwise, including the owners of horses who made a concerted effort to support the parade. These included Lisa Holohan, Lee-Ann McClelland, Simone, Colleen and Erin Krahnen, Liz Christensen, Michael and Deb Scott, Lisa Lanyon-Whitehead, Hollie Webster, Denise Kaye and Cathy Campbell. A real trooper being Jeanette Poede who travelled well over three hours from Gympie to exhibit her talented 20-year-old Arabian mare, Grelisa Park Zhamira (Pembac Zhamir x Evansley Breanna).

Immediately after the World Arabian Horse Organization (WAHO) Conference held at Terrigal, there were post conference tours organised to several destinations in Australia and New Zealand.

After the parade the group clambered aboard their bus to travel through depressing drought-stricken countryside to visit Bluedawn Egyptian Arabsians, owned by Greg, Marysia and Kyal Keyes. Set in a picturesque green oasis on the Brisbane River at Vernor, horses at the stud enjoy a natural outdoor lifestyle.

Greg was a great fan of Australia’s first Australian Champion Mare, 27 Ibn Galal-5 and founded Bluedawn in 2006 when he purchased her straight Egyptian granddaughter, Simeon Siliet (Imperial Madaar x Simeon Sukari) as a youngster. He then gathered mares from strong producing dam lines for the farm. Stallions have been added over the years and their current sire is the bay German-bred Ashquar HM (NK Hafid Jamil x NK Asila).

Three horses were paraded in the stud’s new and impressive arena which was flanked by large sandstone blocks, a lovely setting to show off horses. First to be paraded was the masculine Ashquar HM, followed by his pretty grey daughter Bluedawn Jalila. Her charming dam, Simeon Siliet, was the last horse exhibited. We then meandered through the paddocks chatting with Greg about the horses and his future plans for the stud. The tour was capped off beautifully by Marysia’s delectable home-made afternoon tea.

The next morning the temperature soared to a scorching 39+ degrees,
topped off with dust clouds rolling in from western Queensland. At around 9:30am we arrived at Bacchante Arabians situated at Coleyville and owned by Diane Wright. Established over 25 years ago, this farm dramatically changed direction in 2012 due to three events; Heath Rowbottom being appointed farm manager; Diane acquiring an interest in the Arabian stallion Saudi El Persus (BR) (Persus El Jamaal x Silk Zhamira with Jeanette Poede). Arabian mare Shaqueil with

Looking at these youngsters it’s obvious that Saudi El Persus is passing on many of his wonderful qualities, including his exceptional front. Next was the golden Partbred stallion Rosegalen Crown Royale ( sire Chelleason Crown Jewell), owned by Gary and Cate Cunningham. A popular show horse, he has won many awards including three Australian National Championships in halter as well as a Reserve Championship in costume.

Saudi El Persus’ exuberant purebred colt Bacchante Versailles just couldn’t contain himself while showing off to the farm’s guests. He is a multi-champion and amongst his wins are 2018 East Coast Champion Yearling Colt, 2018 Bronze Champion Yearling Colt at the Australian Championships plus 2019 Reserve East Coast Champion Intermediate Colt.

He also introduces a new bloodline to the stud via his dam, Burren-Dah Audrey Fox sired by Foxfire BHF (US). The feminine Arabian mare Baccante First Romance (from Eastwinds Second Spring) then graced us with her presence. She was the first foal sired by the farm’s now deceased senior stallion Romamo (Expectation x Yasatis Bint Nuri). First Romance, in her day, was an East Coast Champion Filly. Last but not least was the stud’s pride and joy, the handsome and aptly named stallion, Renaissance. He was awarded 2016 Australian National Champion Colt, 2018 Bronze Australian National Champion Stallion, 2019 East Coast Championships Junior Champion Stallion and High Point Arabian Exhibit. Renaissance has been a successful young sire for Bacchante. We were spoil’d with home-made jam and scones for our morning tea before moving on to Moondarra Arabians.

Moondarra Arabians, situated on 62 acres in the Lockyer Valley, was founded in the mid-1970s by Ian and Deb Watson. Their senior sire is the 28-year-old Kyarnda Lodge Panache ( sire Sambist x Electra Tai) was the final Moondarra horse paraded. He has sired successful endurance and performance horses. Two outside horses were also shown; Charaway Victorious J and her filly by True Vision and the 2018 Arabian Racehorse of the Year, Aloha Desert Jewel. At the completion of the parade everyone sat down to a delicious lunch prepared by Kellie Watson.

Despite the sweltering weather, our WAHO visitors said they had an amazing couple of days in Queensland and thoroughly enjoyed chatting about Arabs with the Australians.

Deb Watson reports: ‘On Tuesday, Toft Endurance owners Peter and Penny Toft and their daughter Alexandra hosted a wonderful evening for the WAHO visitors at their Marburg property. The following afternoon, the group returned to their stables to see an exciting presentation of purpose-bred endurance horses, under saddle and in hand. Among the horses paraded were: Beaudacious (by Chip Chase Sadaqa), LW7 winner Tom Quilty, Best Conditioned and Joint winner of the Pat Slater Cup 2018; Anglo stallion Wallaby Jones (by Chip Chase Sadaqa), whose full brother had multiple wins in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Europe. Wallaby’s dam Tallaroon Creo-Royarle produced winners and winners in the UAE and Europe. Wallaby Jones (by Chip Chase Sadaqa), whose full brother had multiple wins in the Chip Chase Sadaqa stallion, Zerox te who is currently standing at stud in Europe. Wallaby Jones te and Sadapers, comprising the best of endurance mares and foals, were presented by Wallaby Jones te and Sadapers, comprising the best of endurance bloodlines and a whole generation of future endurance superstars.’