



# WAHO Queensland Tour

WORDS & PHOTOGRAPHY SHARON MEYERS

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 Krahn, 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 Arabians, 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 lb 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,

**Above:** WAHO visitors at Bluedawn Egyptian Arabians.  
 Left to right front row: Didier Thievent, Marysia Keyes, Silvia Naumann.  
 Centre row: Jutta Hietzscholdt, Jeannine Joerin-Hall, Julie Crowe, Heidi Bernsdorff.  
 Back row: Greg Keyes, Frank Hietzscholdt, Judy Phillips.





**Above left:** Arabian mare Shaqueil with Erin Krahn.

**Above middle:** Arabian mare Grelisa Park Zhamira with Jeanette Poede.

**Above right:** Arabian gelding Platinum Troy and Darian Wise dressed as Batman.



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 Perseus (BR) (Perseus El Jamaal x Silk El Jamaal) and the birth of a special colt named Renaissance (Chelleason Crown Jewel x Bacchante Evangeline).

This parade was a laid-back affair with Heath showing six horses while we sipped cold, refreshing lemonade. The first horses exhibited were two derivatives sired by

2016 Australian National Champion Stallion Saudi El Perseus; RP Back to Black and the Half Arabian mare, Sanjoy Shanita. Looking at these youngsters it's obvious that Saudi El Perseus is passing on many of his wonderful qualities, including his exceptional front. Next was the golden Partbred stallion Roseglen Crown Royale (sire Chelleason Crown Jewel), owned by Gary and Cate Cunningham. A popular show horse, he has won many awards including three Australian National Championships in halter plus a Reserve Championship in costume.

Saudi El Perseus' 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 Bacchante 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 Romarno (Esperation x Yasatis Bint Nizr). 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 spoilt 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. They endeavour to produce Arabian horses capable of excelling in the show ring, performance fields and the breeding barn. Their senior sire is the 28-year-old Kyarnda Lodge Panache (Arabian Lodge Andre x Burnam Adjanette) and many of his daughters have been retained. Around ten years ago the Watsons travelled to Poland and as a result, they imported three Polish mares from Michalow Stud.

Prior to the parade talented singer Kylie Hogan sang the Australian National Anthem while mounted on her Arabian gelding Gamaal and she continued entertaining

**Far left:** Bluedawn's foundation mare, Simeon Sillet.

**Left:** Straight Egyptian filly Bluedawn Jalila with Greg Keyes.

us throughout our visit. The first horse paraded was Arabian gelding Moondarra Code Red, wearing a Native Costume and ridden by Ian and Deb's daughter, Kellie. A family favourite, he is a great character and has done well in the show ring. He was followed by Moondarra's junior stallion Peronii MA iid PL (Ekstern x Debowa Polana). Recently broken-in, he happily trotted around the arena showing off with Richard Sharman on board. The charming mare Eltesja imp PL (Emigrant x Elgara) then caught our eye as she serenely walked into the arena led by Kellie. Dam of five foals, her filly at foot was sired by Peronii MA. Eltesja's seven-year-old daughter Moondarra Eltaya (sired by Kyarnda Lodge Panache) was then shown by Ian. She has been broken to saddle and is embarking on an endurance career.

The imported El Tessa (Poganin x El Ghazala) paraded next with her large good-looking colt by Peronii MA. She is the dam of eight foals and is currently in foal to Fearless FF to produce the stud's first Arabian Warmblood. El Tessa's sweet

daughter Moondarra El Lara sired by Kyarnda Lodge Panache was next. She will be broken-in shortly and is destined for the show ring. The imported Polish beauty Debowa Polana (Eldon x Debowa Gora), dam of Peronii MA, was shown with her attractive colt Moondarra Poznan sired by Kyarnda Lodge Panache. The Polish/Kyarnda Lodge Panache cross has certainly been successful for the farm. Moondarra's 19-year-old stallion Samson Tai (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 Arabians with the Australians. U

*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 te (by Chip Chase Sadaqa), LWT winner Tom Quilty, Best Conditioned and joint winner of the Pat Slater Cup 2018; Anglo stallion Wallaby Jones te (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 many winners including Emily Jones te, an individual bronze winner at the World Junior Endurance Championships in 2013 and a multiple winner in both the UAE and Europe; Sh'harriet te, dam of Quilty winners and winners in the UAE and Europe. Her dam Harriet was Team Silver Medallist at the 2005 World Endurance Championships (UAE); Dream Time te, a daughter of the Chip Chase Sadaqa stallion, Zerex te who is currently standing at stud in Europe. Zerex te is a 2star winner and Quilty completer. Mares and foals presented were by Wallaby Jones te and Sadapers, comprising the best of endurance bloodlines and a whole generation of future endurance superstars.'



**Top:** Arabian colt Moondarra Poznan.

**Above:** Arabian mare Eltesja (PL) with Kellie Watson.

**Below left:** Arabian stallion Bacchante Versailles with Heath Rowbottom.

**Below:** Arabian stallion Renaissance.

