

HARTMOR Quarter Horse Stud

TO say the Central Queensland family, Scott and Michelle Hartwig, have several eggs in their business basket is really an understatement.

This well known family operates three properties, Goolara Siding, and The Creek Block, both in the Theodore district, and Ruined Castle at Taroom.

And this is where they successfully manage their diverse operation including the HARTMOR Quarter Horse Stud, HARTMOR Working Dogs and HARTMOR Cattle operation. According to Scott he describes the operation this way.

“We are a family based farming business encompassing a Quarter Horse stud, a working dog breeding program and a Brahman cross cattle breeding operation. We are also working on two new business lines - an online meat business as well as a farm stay experience for visitors.”

“Our business base is our home block at Goolara Siding, Theodore, from which The Creek Block is overseen, while we employ a caretaker to oversee Ruined Castle.” Scott has lived in the Theodore district for the past 15 years. He was brought up surrounded by horses on his fathers Quarter Horse stud, and it is from there, he inherited the passion for breeding and training these magnificent animals. Once his studies were completed at Gatton College (Ass Dip -Stock Meat Inspection), Scott decided to expand his quest for knowledge by travelling around Queensland, the USA and Canada and worked on various horse studs.

He recalls some highlights were Royston Thoroughbred Stud at Beaudesert, in south-east Queensland, where he spent two years and was responsible for the breeding and scanning of all broodmares.

In the USA, Scott worked with the up and coming Cutting Trainer, Jeff Petska at Carol Rose Quarter Horses, Texas, starting two-year-olds in reining, while another highlight was working with Pat Fitzgerald Cutting Horses in Oklahoma, the home of Docs Hickory and Docs Quixote (now deceased) and more recently Smart Mate where he also started two-year-olds on cattle in preparation for cutting competition. In 2000 Scott invested in the imported Quarter Horse Stallion, “Proud to Be An Okie”, and owned him in partnership with his father. At that time Scott owned a number of well bred quarter horse mares but continued to add to his breeding mare numbers with the best of “Okie’s” progeny.

It was during this period that Scott bred a number of strong performers in the cutting pen including most recently Okie’s Princess, a daughter of “Proud To Be An Okie” from the mare King Lawsons Lassie.



Scott and one of his working dogs

Photo: Lectro Lena San



Lectro Lena San with Scott and Michelle Hartwig at home in QLD

Okie's Princess was started by Scott himself but is currently being trained and ridden by Ian Cox at Texoma Stallion Station, Tamworth. Her most recent wins were at the Dorrigo Silver Spurs Cutting where in December 2009 she came first in the 10000 novice and third in the 3500 novice and again in December of that year, she came first in the 10000 novice and second in the 3500 novice.

Proud To Be An Okie (imp) was one of the very few stallions to sire both NCHA and NRHA Futurity Champions as well as numerous draft winners. His progeny includes: Okie Quixote 1995 AQHA Reserve High Point Cutting Horse, Strokin' Okie - 1993 NCHA Futurity Champion, Count on Okie - 1995 Non-Pro Reining Classic Champion and the only son in Australia of Triple Crown Winner Doc's Okie Quixote. He was an NCHA Open and Novice winner, the Wagga Futurity Reserve Champion (1988) and has an AQHA Register Of Merit in Cutting and Performance. Adding to Scott's broodmare stock with the best of Proud to be an Okie's progeny is Okie's Duchess, Oakies Return, Proud of Okitee, Sonitas Little Oakie, Tiffany Oak and Okie's Princess. Unfortunately "Proud To Be An Okie" passed away in February last year, and Scott started the search for a new USA imported stallion.

After leasing "Lectro Lena San" for two breeding seasons and realising a great deal of interest in his progeny, particularly those by Lectro, from the "Proud To Be An Okie mares" the Hartwig's made the decision to not only buy him but to also re-invent their business the HARTMOR Quarter Horse Stud. "In June 2009 "Lectro Lena San" formally became ours and we have enjoyed a successful first breeding season throughout the last half of last year, running 14 breeding mares and selling well handled first year foals, halter led rising two-year-olds and broken and going three-year-olds and upwards," Scott said. So far the Hartwigs have been encouraged by the positive feedback, proving the decision to buy and move him to Queensland was the right one. "We are particularly excited

about having "Lectro Lena San" in Queensland as so many of the other imported quarter horse stallions seem to be in NSW, in particular around Tamworth," Scott said.

"He is the only approved breeding sire in Australia by Lectric Playboy (\$1m sire in the USA), imported from the USA, when he was two-years-old," Scott replied.

"His progeny are already excelling in both cutting and camp drafting in Australia including NCHA Age Event Finalists such as The Sand Lady, Lectros Scooter and Lectrosa Lena.

"Lectro Lena San's" progeny all have a strong likeness to him, in particular his distinguished head. They are extremely pretty and they are perfect height for cutting and campdrafting.

"They have very quiet natures and a strong cow sense."

Since establishing the HARTMOR Quarter Horse Stud, the Hartwigs have concentrated on specialising in breeding high quality, performance and work horses with a focus on imported breeding and proven bloodlines, good looks, quiet, willing natures and athletic ability.

"We breed our horses for cutting, campdrafting and reining, but have also bred horses that have been very successful at rodeo timed events, roping, show jumping, western pleasure, halter and trail, as well as horses that have excelled as all round pleasure mounts for the whole family.

"We breed strong Quarter Horses not only for sale but also for our own use and pleasure. Our horses need to be diverse enough to go from mustering our 75,000 acres at Ruined Castle, to the cutting pen on weekends as competition is always calling," he said.

The HARTMOR Quarter Horse Stud is based on our 'home block' at Goolara Siding, a 130 acre block situated 3km north of Theodore on the Leichhardt Highway but our broodmares are run between it and the Creek Block depending on the season and feed availability.

At Goolara Siding the Hartwig's also run their working dogs, cropping under a centre pivot, and fattening country for their weaner Brahman cross cattle which are bred at their breeding block at Ruined Castle, Taroom. 🐾