

Foundation Mare - Felicitation

(Winnebago/Janus xx, b.1978)

by Angela Smith

Winnebago	Winnetou	Ferdinand	Ferrara
		Goldstunde	Goldfisch II
Wulfine	Wulf	Duenenerhe	Futurist I
		Dwinger	
Jane Blithe xx	Janus xx	Blue Peter xx	Fairway xx
		Jane xx	Alycidon xx
	Bliss xx	Knight's Romance xx	Royal Charger xx
		Shadoof xx	Tiderace xx



Above: Felicitation and Eric Ropiha.
Photo Barbara Thomson
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Felicitation's life began at the thoroughbred stud Sovereign Lodge in Ohau, Horowhenua, on the Kapiti Coast. Born in 1978, her dam was the Thoroughbred mare Jane Blithe xx, by Janus xx, a son of Blue Peter xx out of Bliss xx, who was by the Royal Charger xx son, Knight's Romance xx. Bred by Eric Ropiha, she was a second crop foal by **Winnebago**, the first Hanoverian stallion to come to NZ.

Jane Blithe xx, a cup winning mare, was to have only the one Hanoverian foal, as she was too valuable as a broodmare in Eric's thoroughbred breeding programme to be spared for breeding non-thoroughbred horses. She was the dam of winning racehorses Membership, Gay Helena and King of Kings to name a few of her successful progeny.

When Felicitation ("Flick") was born, the studmaster was astonished as she had such an amazing crest on her neck and had large hindquarters, which made her stand out amongst all the thoroughbred foals that shared the foaling paddock with her. She retained these characteristics all her life.

She was raised in Woodville and was largely a stabled horse. She was broken in as a three year old before being put in foal, still a three year old, to **Witzbold**. In due course, she produced a colt foal called **Warner**, which competed successfully up to advanced dressage and was driven in harness in his latter years.

Felicitation then embarked on her dressage career, as well as showjumping up to what was then C grade. She had many wins, Champion in hand at A&P shows, was top advanced dressage horse in NZ in 1989 and eventually competed with wins at Grand Prix level, with Eric Ropiha as her rider. She retired to the broodmare paddock at thirteen after 10 years competing sound.

Felicitation's offspring:

After Warner, she produced in 1990 a bay colt, **Jubilation**, by Jaguar (Warmblood) which was sold and, ridden by Katherin Gorringer, competed at medium level dressage.

In 1992 came **Garland**, by Genius, a bay filly bred by Eric Ropiha. **Garland** was broken in by Eric and sold to Sir Ron and Lady Margaret Trotter of Waikanae. Cindy Kent was also a share holder in the mare and was the early rider and trainer.

Garland competed up to Elementary, with many wins, before Cindy Kent sold her half share to Fred Cornege of Seattle lodge. From here she competed in the late '90's in showjumping up to 1.3 m, her regular rider being Fred Cornege.

Later **Garland** went to the broodmare paddock and has had several fillies to KWPN stallion Voltaire II and a colt to Senator VDL.

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Felicitation

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Above: Stoneylea Delicia trots out during Dr Wilkens' inspection tour 2005

In 1995 a brown colt by Dynamit called **De Niro** was born, bred by Mr and Mrs P Zander of Otaki. He was sold to Fred Cornege and became a showjumper.

In 1996 the Zanders bred Felicitation to Anamour, the result being a dark brown filly called **Aspire**. This filly was early trained by Kim Zander in showjumping, winning two four year old classes at the National Young Horse Showjumping Championships in November 2000, before being sold to the USA, where she competed successfully up to advanced level in eventing.

Ten years - four generations

My husband, John, and I purchased Felicitation in 1997, in foal to Anamour.

The first generation - Felicitation's foals: Stoneylea Aurora

In 1998 Felicitation produced her second Anamour filly, her first foal for Stoneylea Farm, **Stoneylea Aurora**. **Aurora** came third in her foal class at the National Horse and Pony show at Dannevirke, but sadly, that was to be her only outing; she fractured her hip in a paddock accident as a yearling. Fortunately, she recovered sound enough for breeding purposes.

Stoneylea Aurora was classified overall 8.0 on studbook inspection. She grew up to be an upstanding, big 16.2h.h. mare with a long frame and with good, elastic paces, only stepping marginally short on her old injured leg.

Stoneylea Delicia

In 2000 Felicitation gave birth to her last foal, a chestnut filly, **Stoneylea Delicia**, by Dreamboy .

Delicia was a beautiful foal. She was Champion Young Sport-horse at the Manawatu Breeders' Show at Foxton and went on to win the foal class at the HOY 2001, judged by Manfred Lopp.

In 2004 **Delicia** won the Hanoverian Young mare Studbook award for the highest classified three or four year old mare, scoring overall 9.0 on inspection . She was broken in and ridden for a few months and then put in foal. **Delicia** was viewed by Dr Wilkens on his inspection tour of 2005. He described her as being a modern type, equal to what was currently being

bred in Germany.

The second generation -

Foals of Stoneylea Aurora :

Aurora's first foal, born in 2002, was a dark bay colt by Long-champ, **Stoneylea Longfellow**. A big foal with a superb temperament and good gaits, we sold him to Australia as a two year old .

In 2005 Aurora produced a chestnut filly, **Stoneylea Waiata**, by Weltmeyer, which we have retained for breeding .

Aurora's latest offspring is the 2007 chestnut colt, **Stoneylea Lord Locksley**, by Locksley II, which we will ask Dr Wilkens to inspect on his tour here in March 2009, before we decide whether to geld him.

Foals of Stoneylea Delicia:

In 2005 Delicia produced her first foal, a Weltmeyer colt, which unfortunately died at seven months, of a lung infection. Her second foal, a bay colt born in 2008, is **Stoneylea Dance Meister**, by Dancier. He is a stunner, bay with white markings and very good movement.

The third generation and beyond -

Foals of Stoneylea Waiata (Felicitation's granddaughter)



Above: Felicitation's 4th generation - Stoneylea Londonbelle aged 4 days.

Stoneylea Waiata has given us **Stoneylea Londonbelle**, a chestnut filly by Locksley II, born in October 2008. This great granddaughter of Felicitation we will also retain for breeding.

Felicitation spent her last years grazing the green meadows of Tuakau and babysitting the young horses. She was put down when she was in her 30th year after suffering from arthritis.

Flick was a lovely mare and we were privileged to own her. We will continue her legacy with her daughters and their daughters.