

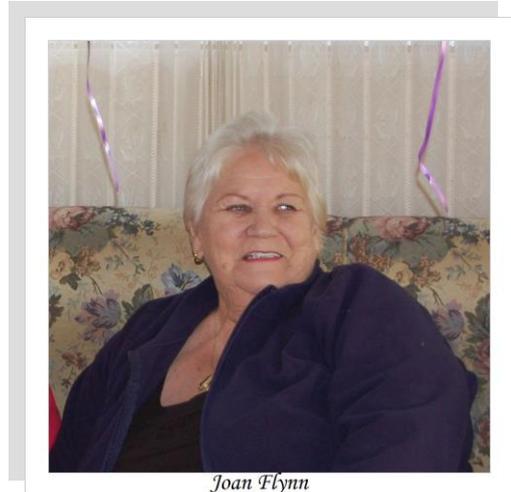
Joan Flynn

By: Coralie Gordon [2020]

Joan Flynn has been involved with horses for most of her life, but her passion for Arabian horses, especially Crabbet Arabians, dates back to when her father came home with a special horse.

Joan's father bred Thoroughbreds, just as a small breeder, but every year he travelled to Melbourne for the big Melbourne Cup Race meet. The big race is called "the race that stopped the nation", and the State of Victoria even celebrates with a public holiday on the first Tuesday in November. In Melbourne he met Mrs Dora Maclean of the famous Fenwick Arabian Stud, and was invited to lunch at Fenwick on the day before the Cup. One year she told him he should have an Arabian horse, and he said he would if he could have the pick of that year's foal crop. She agreed. It

happened that his pick was a grey colt named SOMERLED, by Baz from Silver Radiance. He came home to Queensland, and led a fairly quiet life, siring the odd foal and being leased for a few seasons by the Queensland Agricultural College at Gatton, which bred and housed some remarkable Arabians like Silver Moonlight GB (Indian Magic x Silver Fire), Grand Royal GB (Oran x Sharima) and Mahif GB (Indian Magic x Myolanda).



Joan Flynn



Somerled

(Baz x Silver Radiance)

When Joan's parents retired to the country, Joan and her husband Kerry were gifted the beautiful pure white Somerled. At this point Joan phoned me out of the blue to ask whether there would be any interest in the Arabian community in using a horse of those bloodlines! After I picked myself up off the floor, I replied that they most certainly would, and our friendship began. It led to the formation of the Queensland Crabbet Arabian Group which ran the Queensland Arabian Summer Show for 20 years, with Crabbet Arabians having the featured Ring. Also the Queensland

Arabian Horse of the Year Show, and eventually the World Crabbet Convention in Toowoomba in 2005.

Joan and her husband Kerry, who was a farrier, began to breed Arabians using the Kerijo Stud prefix. Somerled stood at stud to a small number of mares each year. Joan and Kerry also bred some exceptional Pure Crabbet Arabians including the mares Pure Silver and Simply Silver [from the Greylight GB mare Pure Magic]. These two were Hamdanieh Simriehs, in both sire and dam tail female lines. I was lucky enough to breed a number of Somerled offspring, but his blood is most firmly entrenched in my stud because of his superb son Cedardell Zanzibar [from Zaria

GB a granddaughter of Ziree el Wada]. We bred over 100 foals by him, including many who have gone on to be endurance superstars.

Joan was the inspiration behind the Crabbet magazine, "Australia's Crabbet Arabian Annual" [which was later printed twice each year] which I edited and she published for almost 20 years. We soon identified most of the Crabbet horses in Australia, and there were many, and I think their owners/breeders found a lot of support from one another. At its height the magazine was also available on the news-stands, which was a very handy promotional tool.

We also found time to write and self-publish two very handy books. They were "The Crabbet Arabian Imports to Australia"[1988], and "The Crabbet Silver Family in Australia" [1987]. They sold really well, and are now out of print. We really wrote them out of a need we had ourselves for information, with very few references available, apart from the British and Australian Stud Books. In those days there were no Online Stud Books, World Database, Facebook, etc. We did all our research from the original sources, recording it all by hand in extensive notebooks. Joan did all the layouts of the photographs, made all the printing arrangements, and mailed out both magazines and books. They were busy days! Our husbands were always very supportive, especially Joan's husband Kerry who also contributed his financial backing when we needed it to get our projects off the ground. Photographers, breeders, and some of the bigger studs such as Fenwick Stud, were extraordinarily helpful.

Over the years, brochures, stud cards, caps and T shirts, stud guides and many other promotional items were produced.

The Farleigh Stud World Crabbet Convention in 2005 in Toowoomba, Queensland, was our last big collaboration. We produced a show catalogue for The Calga Arabians Crabbet Celebration Show, and a Convention Catalogue. Artist Jill Vanstone produced striking historical paintings for each catalogue. Joan always loved working on a big project and in 2005 Arabian Breeder Ken Coombe was the very competent Chairman of the Convention Committee.

Roll on another 15 years and Joan is fast approaching 80 years of age. She can look back with pride on her contribution to the Crabbet Arabian in Australia.