

In memory of a great friend



We often hear stories of great horses, horses that touch the heart of millions with their stories of courage and grace. Horses like Makybe Diva, Mr. Ed, Phar Lap and Flicka. Then there are special horses that are not million dollar race horses or movie stars they are just your ordinary pony club horse and a good mate that forever leave a hoof print on your heart.

Arnie was one of these horses, a pony club horse however far more valuable than even the biggest stake winner. He wasn't valuable for his bloodlines or even because he could run fast. His value was something that money can never buy. The great times and even greater memories he gave to all his young riders, even more importantly the friendship of a good mate. All the children and the families that had the privilege of having Arnie in their lives will all tell you this.

Arnie first came to Tallebudgera Pony Club in the early 1990's and was owned by the Menyweather Family and ridden by Louise. Arnie was a surprise birthday present for her 9th birthday. Arnie took Louise from a beginner to quite a competent rider. Louise enjoyed many pony club camps with Arnie, often taking home the most improved award. The Menyweather family loved to take Arnie to the beach and boy was it hard to get Arnie out once he got in! They often had the fastest time in barrels or the highest score in the jumping. It was more often than not Arnie's riders took home a trophy.

Arnie was next ridden by Candice Adams. She was such a tiny little girl when she first started pony club however she was a speed demon and would canter absolutely everywhere and jump anything in her path! Candice also won plenty of ribbons and trophies on Arnie. Arnie gave his littlest riders so much confidence and was also so safe that before long they were riding in the unaided classes at gymkhanas at 5 or 6 years old (and cantering everywhere!). Long before many were off the lead line.

Arnie next went to live with the Dyson – Hollands. Siobhan was another tiny girl on what seemed a too big a horse for her but Arnie did what he always done best, took the utmost care looking after his little rider and keeping her safe.

After Siobhan moved onto another horse Arnie went to live with the Lovells and became the littlest Lovell, April's pony. April was another tiny rider but she kept up with her big sisters and brother with no problem with the diverse and ever safe Arnie. April wasn't on the lead line long either. Cleaning up in every competition they entered especially the sporting and showjumping. Even winning the overall Fancy

dress at pony club dressed as a C horse. Arnie was a great horse to dress up. Nothing every bothered him. When April out grew Arnie he then went the Bischoff family for another little rider, Francis.

In true Arnie style Francis was soon keeping up with her older sisters jumping anything in sight and cantering everywhere. Arnie was such an honest and willing horse and gave all of his 'girls' the best start they could possibly get. I think it would make Arnie very proud to know he had a part in starting his girls of to become the champions they are going to be.

After Francis moved onto a bigger horse Arnie went to live with the Sherwoods and became Sarah's horse. Arnie carried Sarah to many wins at gymkhanas, always only as fast as Sarah wanted to go. He was such a gentleman and took great care of his little rider.



The last rider for Arnie was Grace Ellis. Arnie was beginning to slow down a little by this stage he must have been around the 25 years old mark. Even though he was slowing down a little he still took great care of Grace. Often Grace's little sister would have a ride and Arnie could always be trusted to be safe.

Once in a lifetime you can be blessed with a special horse. That finds nothing too hard to do for his riders. That special horse that takes everything in his stride. One that is just as much at home on a trail ride as he is taking in the busy atmosphere at a show. A horse that never runs out of a jump or shies at a flag, one you can trust with your whole heart and one that touches your whole heart so that you never will forget. Arnie was indeed one of these horses, worth his weight in gold and then some. Arnie was truly a great horse.

Arnie slipped away on Christmas Eve 2008 at age 35+, he now rests in peace with his best mate Danny and his girlfriend Miss Liffie. He no doubt is waiting near the rainbow bridge, waiting for the day to be reunited with all of his very special girls.

Top- April and Arnie Fancy Dress "Clown"
Bottom- April 5 years



old



Bottom- April Fancy Dress Overall Winner 2001 – C Horse



Top – Arnie at Mudgeeraba Show
Bottom – Arnie's best mate Danny



Miss Liffie – Arnie's girlfriend



