

## **IT ALL ENDS WITH A SIMPLE THANK YOU.**

Between 3.30am and 6.30am this morning, Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011, Tuthaside Horses had their last 2011 foal for the year and this brought our breeding programme to a close.

Tuthaside Final Edition, (registration pending) is a black solid filly out of Prairie Jane, PHAA7260 a bay solid and by Colorite War Paint, PHAA7997, a bay tobero. Although it was a little disappointing that “Ruby”, as she has been named by her new owner, is a solid it was somewhat predicted by Lyn the day before when she mentioned that we started with a solid (QH colt) so we will probably finish with a solid.

As mentioned above our years as breeders of quality Paint and Quarter horses have come to an end and it is with mixed emotions that we now move on to our planned retirement and look forward to quieter times and less visits to doctors and hospitals.

Since Ken finally accepted that he could not sustain much more damage as a result of injuries or health scares things have moved along at a rapid pace. Once we listed our property for sale it was sold in two days which then left us with the big task of selling and rehoming our horses in a comparatively short space of time.

Although we were both aware of the quality of horses that we had obtained over the years it still remained a daunting task ahead to sell (not fire sale) them and find new homes in a relatively short space of time.

This is where our network of friends and previous buyers came to the fore along with a little advertising on selected websites. As a result we sold our last two horses on the 5<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and there has been an orderly procession of horses leaving our property.

Whilst we still have a small number here (for foaling down and rebreeding purposes) they will all be gone by the first week of January 2012. For this both Lyn & I can only say a humble “Thank You” to all who purchased our stock and we trust that each one of you has as much enjoyment with them as we did.

Having said the above I now wish to take some time to try and express how I personally feel about the sale and move along with thanking those around me who without them my dreams of breeding would not have come to fruition.

It has taken me three long years to finally come to accept that my body was not coping the best and that I could no longer take the buffeting and bruising that is associated with close contact with large animals.

All this time Lyn was trying to encourage me to think about retiring whilst steadfastly standing by me and attending to my ailments as they occurred. Whilst I slowly got worse her attitude around the horses changed and she commenced to do chores that I once could do with my eyes shut, all the time without complaining.

During the time that we were breeding quality foals we have made some great friends, met a lot of people that will remain in our lives in the future, and like all breeders have met more than the occasional "Oddball" along the way.

To one and all that we have dealt with I say thanks to you and may your dreams come true. To my best mate and chief critic, my granddaughter Mikayla Eileen Coburn, I could not have gone on as much as I have without your affection and: "I love you, Poppy's".

To my wife and best mate: Lyn, I am lost for words as to how to thank you for your patience and being there when I needed attention all the while not once did you complain. Without you my dreams of achieving what we have could not be met and for that I will be forever grateful.

I now have to turn my attention to upcoming surgery in January 2012 and trust that recovery will be swift and we can enjoy some quality time together. Thanks to you all and to Lyn I can not finish without stating the obvious:

**I LOVE YOU WITH ALL MY HEART AND THANKS TO YOU.**

