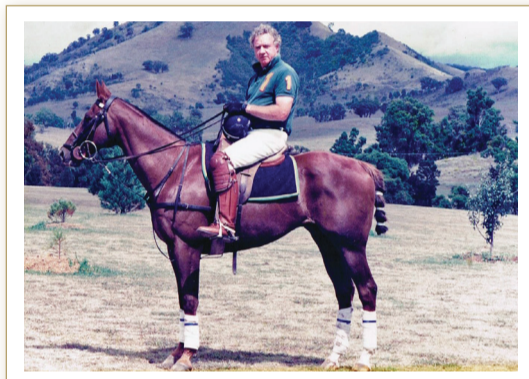# HALL OF FAME

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Chester

Pony to Remember

Owner: Bob Hannon

A liver chestnut thoroughbred gelding by Baguette out of Tiny Tuck bred by Jim Gibson and Blue Brotherton.

Chester began his career working cattle at the Aberdeen Meatworks and also won a few campdrafting competitions. Purchased by Bob Hannon as a 6yo in 1986.

Chester came to prominence in 1991 when he was first played at Ellerston. He was taken along as a spare horse and after umpiring on him, the Argentine star Lolo Castagnola, asked to play him and a star was born. In a stellar career over the next 5 years Chester was a standout in high goal polo. Teamed with Lolo Castagnolo and playing for Bob Hannon's Roseglen team they won most of the major tournaments in NSW including the J.D Macleod Cup, Easter Gold Cup, Easter International and the Ellerston Challenge Cup. Along the way Chester won numerous champion pony prizes including the F.L. Bragg Trophy in 1992 for best pony competing at the Sydney Royal Easter show polo; Kayuga Cup for Champion Team of Ponies at the Easter Challenge and the R.R Ashton Cup in 1993 for Champion Pony at Easter International. Chester had speed, temperament, ability to shut down and accelerate and most importantly a marvellous nature. Chester died in 1997 aged 17, after contracting pneumonia.

" He's the freak! He ruled Ellerston under Lolo for a number of years, unbelievable!" Anto White.

" When Lolo Castagnolo got on Chester he was a 3 goal better player!" Stuart Gilmore.

" One of the most naturally brilliant horses I've ever seen." Pat MacGinley.

"He was a bloody freak." Jim MacGinley.

"He was a match-winner." Jamie Mackay.

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Martini

Pony to Remember

Owner: Ross and Carolyn McGilvray

Martini was a striking grey mare by the Terlings sire, Deo Juvante from Nightcap. Playing much of its career under Ross McGillvray, Martini won a pony prize at one of its first tournaments at Scone. During her career she was to win 9 more during a golden era in the early 70's including Champion Pony at the Australasian Gold Cup in 1973.

Martini was the linchpin of Sinclair Hill's string on the famous Emu's tour of NZ in 1972 where she played 2 chukkas in each of the three test matches. An outstanding mare with a beautiful temperament, Martini played mainly in a snaffle. At stud Martini produced two quality stallions in Tattinger and Bollinger.

"I borrowed her for the big games when I needed something special." Sinclair Hill.

"An outstanding mare that was as good as anything going around." Pat MacGinley.

"Martini was a very good mare. She was a class above the rest." Stuart Gilmore.

"Magnificent mare that won many games." James Archibald.

"What a wonderful mare she was." Jim MacGinley.

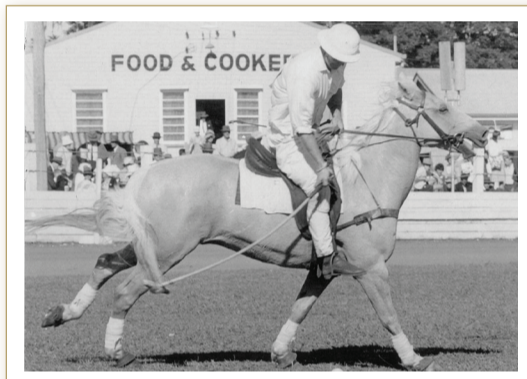*"Beautiful mare, very powerful."* Sinclair Hill.

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Tasman

Pony to Remember

Owner: Mr Wally King

Bred by Wally King at Kooralbyn. A brilliant creamy gelding played by Ken Telford that won countless pony prizes. Tasman was the mainstay of Ken's string when he was at his peak and played 2 or 3 chukkas most games. A favourite with the crowd, Tasman was a big- game horse. Opponents rated Tasman highly and were always wary of his impact on a game. He played in a simple snaffle and was a standout horse at a time when there were a lot of exceptional horses.

"He was a superstar. When Ken played Tasman in big games the crowd went wild." Sinclair Hill.

"This horse allowed Ken to play 7 goals or more against the best players going around." Pat Macginley.

"He was a wonderful horse and one of Ken's best when Ken was at his very best." Jim Macginley.

"When Ken got on this horse he went up 2 goals." Sinclair Hill.

"Ken did freakish things on this horse." Stuart Gilmore.

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Suva

Pony to Remember

Owner: Ellerston Polo

Born in 1984 by Palm Beach from Tropical. A bay mare bred in New Zealand by Graham Thomas, Suva was purchased by Ellerston as an unplayed 4yo, purely on type. The speculative decision turned into a masterstroke as she is now rated by Jim Gilmore and many other judges as Ellerston's best ever polo pony. Suva was played by many of the game's greats including; Bautista Heguy, Gonzalo Pieres, Gonzalo Tanoira, Javier Novillo Astrada, Lucas Monteverde and Henry Brett all of whom marvelled at her talent. Incredibly her first game of tournament polo was in the Ellerston 26 goal under Bautista Heguy, who rated Suva one of his all-time favourite horses. In retirement Suva produced a string of champion foals including; Fiji, Hawaii, Bali, Malta, Tahiti, Cuba, Jamaica, Samoa, Java, Brazil and Antigua – all of whom played or are still playing elite international polo. In 2013 Suva is still alive and living in retirement at Ellerston.

"Everyone played this mare and she performed for them all, she was bloody brilliant." Stuart Gilmore.

"One of the best horses I ever played." Jim Gilmore.

"Marvellous mare over many seasons." Anto White.

"Suva was a seriously good mare." James Archibald.

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Chips

Pony to Remember

Owner: Mr Jim MacGinley

A 14.3hh grey, half-Arab mare that was bred and broken-in by Ted Mingle. John MacGinley started the mare in her first season in chukkas on the Darling Downs, but left for the priesthood at the end of the season. Chip's first game was at Goondiwindi under Ted Mingle where she impressed enough to attract a couple of offers, with Jim MacGinley the winning bidder at 50 pounds.

In her long career Chips won many pony prizes including the Champion Pony at the Barr Smith Cup and famously scored 5 goals under Ken Telford in the final of the Show Polo, winning Champion Pony. Chips mainly played 3 chukkas in most of her games as Jim MacGinley rose through the ranks on her back from 0 to 6 goals. She was later sold to Alan McGregor.

"Chips took me from zero goals to 6 and she was as good for me on 6 as she was when I started out." Jim MacGinley.

"Only a small but incredibly quick and active pony that played all day." Pat MacGinley.

"She was a terrific little pony, that Jim and many others played. There was not a lot of her, but she was very, very good." Jim Gilmore.

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Maria Tod

Pony to Remember

Owner: John Kilmartin

A brown mare by Tod Craig out of a thoroughbred mare. Maria Tod was bred in New Zealand by Ken Browne and acquired by John Kilmartin as a 3yo. An extremely tractable, very fast and easy mare that played in a snaffle. Maria Tod played 2 chukkas in most games during her career under Pat MacGinley, where she won many pony prizes. After excelling in the high goal in the early 90's, she was sold to Billy Wilson who continued to enjoy the mare for many years. After retiring Maria Tod threw a few foals that also played well.

"She was a brilliant mare. Pat was the best number 2 going around and she was his best horse, she was outstanding." Jim MacGinley.

"Good mare that was beautifully put together. She had a lot of speed and handle and Pat used to get some great chukkas from her." Stuart Gilmore.

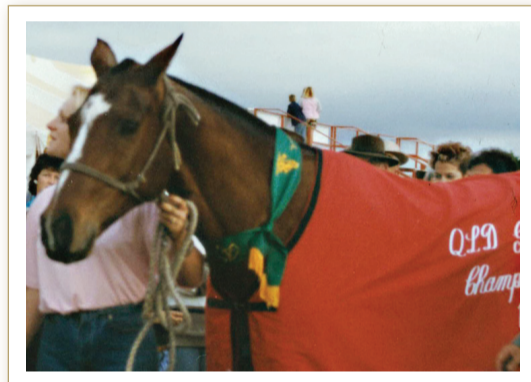*"She was an outstanding mare."* Jamie Mackay.

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Tuesday

Pony to Remember

Owner: Mr Stuart Gilmore

A bay brown mare out of a thoroughbred mare called Emblem. Bred by Stuart Gilmore. Tuesday was born on the Darling Downs on a Tuesday afternoon. Broken in by Matt Hoffman, Tuesday started and eventually finished her polo career under Stuart Gilmore. Tuesday took Stuart from the Darling Downs to the top of the sport playing in all the high goal polo through the 1980s.

A striking-looking mare, she had a standoff manner and hated being fussed over. Tuesday won many pony prizes during her career including the Champion Pony Easter Teams Challenge 1983 / 87 and was part of the Champion Team of Ponies 83/87 at the Easter International. Tuesday died at Ellerston after throwing 1 filly and 7 colts.

"She was a little champion. She had all the power in the world and was very, very quick. She was one of those freakish little mares." Stuart Gilmore.

"One of the toughest mares that played the game, She and Stuart were a fantastic combination," Pat Macginley

"Tuesday was a very strong mare that consistently turned it on at the top level." Jamie Mackay.

"Stuart would usually play her 2 chukkas and she was as good at the end as the beginning," Anto White

"Absolute top class mare," James Archibald

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Jessica

Pony to Remember

Owner: Mr Sinclair Hill

A light bay mare by Cairo out of Jewess who was by Panzer. Jessica was an extremely agile mare that won numerous pony prizes including the Champion Pony in the Easter Gold Cup in 1973 and was in the team of ponies in QLD Gold Cup in 1971.

As one of the mainstays of Sinclair Hill's famed string she also won most of the major tournaments in Australia during the 1970's. Jessica also went to New Zealand on the famous Emu tour of 1972. Jessica died of a twisted bowel.

She wasn't the fastest, but that didn't matter as she got around the ground so quickly and nimbly they didn't know which way she was going." Sinclair Hill.

"You didn't just ride this pony, she played the game with you." Sinclair Hill.

"She was an absolute beauty. Unbelievably good." Stuart Gilmore.

"She was a top flight mare, exceptionally good." James Archibald.

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Treskaa

Pony to Remember

Owner: Mr Jim Gilmore

A 15 hh brown mare by Barjo (Deo Juvante) bred by Peter Cudmore. Treskaa was purchased by Jim Gilmore at 4 years. For the next 10 years Treskaa formed the backbone of Jim's string and really took him to his playing peak. She played 10 seasons of high goal winning 24 champion pony prizes along the way including the Champion Pony at the Easter International in 1987. In her last game of polo, Treskaa was played by Gonzalo Pieres in the Ellerston 40:40 Challenge. Gonzalo rated Treskaa alongside his famous mare Leveque, who made the American Hall of Fame. Much to Jim's great disappointment Treskaa never produced anything special at stud.

"Treskaa at full flight was unstoppable. Just outstanding." Stuart Gilmore.

"Gonzalo Pieres played her in the 40:40 goal and she was outstanding." Jim Gilmore.

"Treskaa was incredible, she took me to the top of my game." Jim Gilmore.

"We always feared Jim when he came out on Treskaa." Anto White.

"Treskaa was a really, really good horse." James Archibald.

"A fabulous mare who lifted Jim to another level." Pat MacGinley.

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Pinky

Pony to Remember

Owner: Ellerston Polo

A chestnut mare born in 1983, Pinky was bred in New Zealand by Tony Devich and purchased by Ellerston in 1988. Pinky was regarded world-wide as one of the great polo playing mares, playing under the world's best when they played the Ellerston high goal. She was a particular favourite of Stuart Gilmore, and Alfonso Pieres would choose her when he came to play. Pinky competed in all the high goal polo in the 1990's and won a number of pony prizes. Her playing career ended prematurely with a broken leg.

However she retired to stud where her influence has been felt globally. As the backbone of the Ellerston ET breeding program she has thrown countless champions including the brilliant Dinghy, the unbelievable mare Claret as well as Motor, Cabernet, Shiraz, Burgundy, Champagne, Sherry, Chianti, Sauvignon, Vinery, Vintage, Valencia, Merlot, Hermitage and Sangria all of whom have played high goal polo in UK and Argentina. Pinky was put down in 2012 at the age of 30.

"Amazing. Pinky is one of the most famous polo mares in the world. Not just for her playing ability but for the impact she has had on the breeding scene." Jim Gilmore.

"Only little but absolutely outstanding, with a mouth as soft as butter. She became one of the all time great brood mares." Stuart Gilmore.

"Incredible influence on polo breeding globally – one of the world's best broodmares." Anto White.

"Pinky was very, very good and her influence on the breeding scene is significant." Jamie Mackay.

"Absolute world class." Stuart Gilmore.

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Castinette

Pony to Remember

Owner: Jamie Mackay

Born in 1978 Castinette was by Rapid Hour from the fourth generation champion polo playing mare Castina - described by Ken Mackay as the best pony he played. Castinette did cattle work before playing his first chukkas at the Scone club. Castinette played his first game as a fill-in for an injured horse at a Gundagai tournament and won the pony prize. It was to be the first of many pony prizes over the next 10 years including the best pony at the Australian Open. At 16.1 hands, Castinette had raw power, strength and speed, which he combined with immense athleticism. He formed the backbone of Jamie Mackay's high goal string. Castinette retired from play in 1993 at 15 years, continuing to do cattle work until his death in 1997. He is buried at the Mackay family home Cangon.

"Absolutely tough as nails, unstoppable, immovable, unbreakable." Jamie Mackay.

"Castinette was a really, really good horse and just so tough." James Archibald.

"A very, very, very good gelding. He was awfully good." Jim Macginley.

"One of the few really top class geldings." Anto White.

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Princess

Pony to Remember

Owner: Richard Walker / Ellerston Polo

A 15.1hh brown thoroughbred mare by Good Newsman from Good Trip (Whiskey Road). Princess was bred by Richard Walker and incredibly played her first polo as a 2yo when on loan to Rob Bell. Princess became a superb playing mare for Richard Walker before being purchased by Ellerston. A multiple pony-prize winner, Princess most notably won the Champion Pony at the 40:40 Goal at Warwick Farm playing under Gonzalo Pieres. Gonzalo rated Princess as one of the very best ponies he ever played. After a celebrated playing career, Princess produced a number of champions including; Lady, Baron, Mayflower, Armada and Brittania. Some are still playing high goal in the United Kingdom and Argentina.

"Right up there with the best in the game. Beautifully bred, impeccably-balanced and absolutely outstanding on the polo field." Stuart Gilmore.

"She proved herself against the best ponies and players in the world in the 40:40 goal, you can't do more than that." James Archibald.

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Panzer

Pony to Remember

Owner: Mr Bob Mackay

Born in 1945, Panzer was by Pantheon from the thoroughbred mare Nellie. He was played by Bob Mackay in the Wirragulla team with wins in the Countess of Dudley Cup in 1950, '51 and '52; the Australasian Gold Cup of 1952 and the Northern Challenge Cup of 1956. In 1956 at 11 years, Panzer was retired to full time stud work, although he already had a number of talented polo-playing offspring on the ground. Bob Mackay described Panzer as being blessed with amazing speed and agility and with a superb temperament, a trait passed on to his progeny. The Panzer legacy resounds through Australian polo. His sons dominate polo bloodlines including The Gun, Alamein, Cairo, Dundee, Myra Bronze, Musket, Mountbatten, Gunfire, Rannock and Montiego. Another grandson Gillette carries a double cross of Panzer and continues the bloodlines at Cangon. Panzer died at Scone in 1974.

"An exceptional playing horse with a significant influence on the Australian breeding scene." Pat MacGinley.

"Without doubt the most influential stallion in Australian polo." James Archibald.

"His influence has been enormous over decades." Anto White.

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Patch

Pony to Remember

Owner: Matthew Axelsson

Born in 1974 on the Darling Downs, Patch was by a thoroughbred stallion from a good polo playing piebald mare called Blondie. Bred by Bob Telford, he started life as Elvis and was renamed Patch due to his unique colouring. In the early 1980's Jim MacGinley purchased Patch for Victorian patron Ric Thomas who later sold him to Matthew Axelsson.

Over a career of 8 years, Patch played most weekends during the Victorian summer, usually playing at least two and usually more chukkas in every game. He never caused concern for his rider, never put his rider in danger and provided untold joy in allowing Matthew to play the sport of Princes.

"A fantastic pony that was patient and safe and gave Matthew such a great opportunity to participate in polo." Pat MacGinley.

"Money can't buy the joy that this pony afforded." John Patterson.

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