

# Fernances Creek Haflingers “Sporting Horses, 30 Years in the Making”

## What stallions and mares do you use for breeding, and why?

**Fernances Creek Aaron (1988- 2015)** was a stallion bred by us, sired by the imported stallion Admiral from the Netherlands and the mare Gundl. Aaron was a traditional type stallion and stood at 141cm. He was well muscled, broad chested and had a large crest on his neck. Aaron sired 12 progeny, several which proved to be excellent for sporting and jumping. There were three features that Aaron imparted to his progeny and they were: a beautiful head, lovely nature and proven ability for equestrian sports. While the haflinger appealed to many people, catering to a wider sporting audience was the area we wanted to pursue with our horses. For this to happen, we needed to increase height, length of rein and longer legs while retaining bone density and the lovely nature that the haflinger is known for. The next step was to put one of his progeny mares to the imported stallion Necho (144cm) that resided in Australia. Result: Fernances Creek Nutella.

**Fernances Creek Nutella** is 12 years old (2005) stallion, bred by us using Necho an imported stallion from Austria across one of our mares Mischa sired by Aaron. Nutella has produced progeny which is a taller and finer. He also imparts his signature beautiful head and sporting ability. To date, many of his progeny have been bought by families that enjoy showjumping, eventing, pleasure riding and pony club. The nature of these horses has surpassed our expectations for use by young children. From a breeding perspective, Nutella has produced some progeny that have also gained the 1A classification status.

The interesting thing about Nutella and his progeny is the appeal to both traditional and modern haflinger enthusiasts. Traditional, being the smaller (14-14.2 hands) horse, well muscled and broad chested. Modern being, the taller horse (14.2-15 hands +), narrower chested, longer length of rein and longer legs. Whilst our focus is on producing haflingers for sporting, we also want to satisfy the market here in Australia for the 14-14.2 hand horse as well as the market that is asking for the 15 hand horse for eventing, showjumping and dressage. The overarching objective for breeding both types of horses is to maintain temperament, bone density, strength and conformation.

The next step for Fernances Creek was to purchase the modern stallion Spartacus and two new modern mare lines this year. We are also diversifying our breeding program by teaming up with other haflinger breeders who have imported stallions and mare lines. This is the key to creating diversity in haflinger bloodlines, increasing haflinger numbers whilst attracting new haflinger riders, breeders and new markets for the horses.

**Spartacus** is our new 4 year old stallion, bred in Australia using an imported mare Stacia and the stallion Serpico (AI Germany). Spartacus is 150cm, has a tall, athletic build, proven sporting ability and a lovely, kind nature. He is indeed, the entire package for a modern type haflinger. To date, we have our first foals due in a matter of weeks. We have put Spartacus over all of our 14+ traditional breeding mares and can hardly wait to see the first foal. Spartacus has already proven his talent in cross country, showjumping and dressage. He also has a very elegant conformation and style..

## Mare Lines

Currently we have 6 mares lines, R,D,3- L lines(all different) and an S line. Our foundation mares are from the older stallions Wintersun and Ambassador. The foundation mares have all been put to Spartacus. Fernances Creek is in a transition stage as some of our foundation mares are aging and will be phased out over the next couple of seasons. After this occurs, the foundation mares will continue to be used as riding horses on the farm. We will also be purchasing other marelines as they become available.

The new mares lines we purchased resulted from the AI program using Wirbelsturm and Serpico. The mares are the modern type, narrow through the chest, long length of rein with a height already reaching 147cm at a very young age.

These mares will be bred to imported stallions currently in Australia and also using the AI program with stallions not in Australia. Not only do we want to diversify our herd with the new stallion bloodlines, we also want to cross back the new modern mares to our stallion Nutella to satisfy market for the 14-14.2 horses.

## What is/are your long term goal(s) with breeding?

The goal is to produce two types of horses:

A 14.2 hand horse with all of the characteristics of a modern haflinger but with a little more bone density. The market is for pony clubbers and adult riders wanting a smaller horse that is still capable of being used for any discipline.

A 15 hand+ modern haflinger horse that can be used competitively in working equitation, eventing, showjumping, dressage or for pleasure. The market is for riders wanting a taller horse that is competitive.

## What do you desire to be the end use of the horses that you breed, and have you seen your desired outcome?

Fernances Creek would like to see more of the haflinger horses in competitive equestrian sports. We want the marketplace to know that they have a choice on breeding, size, style of horse, colour and usage. We also want to attract more riders and breeders to the AHHBA. We believe that our breeding program, marketing, training and focus on equestrian sports usage has made a positive contribution towards the breed and to the AHHBA community.

Photos: "Sporting Horses, 30 years in the Making for Fernances Creek"

Stallion Aaron and Progeny (Argos and Aragon)	Stallion Nutella and Progeny (Rainshadow and Lucca)	Stallion Spartacus(expecting first foals this year)	Mare Lines (Rosebrook and Other Fillies)
			
			
			