

Champion of Champions

Three time winner at the National Pleasure Horse Association two year old Western Pleasure Futurity

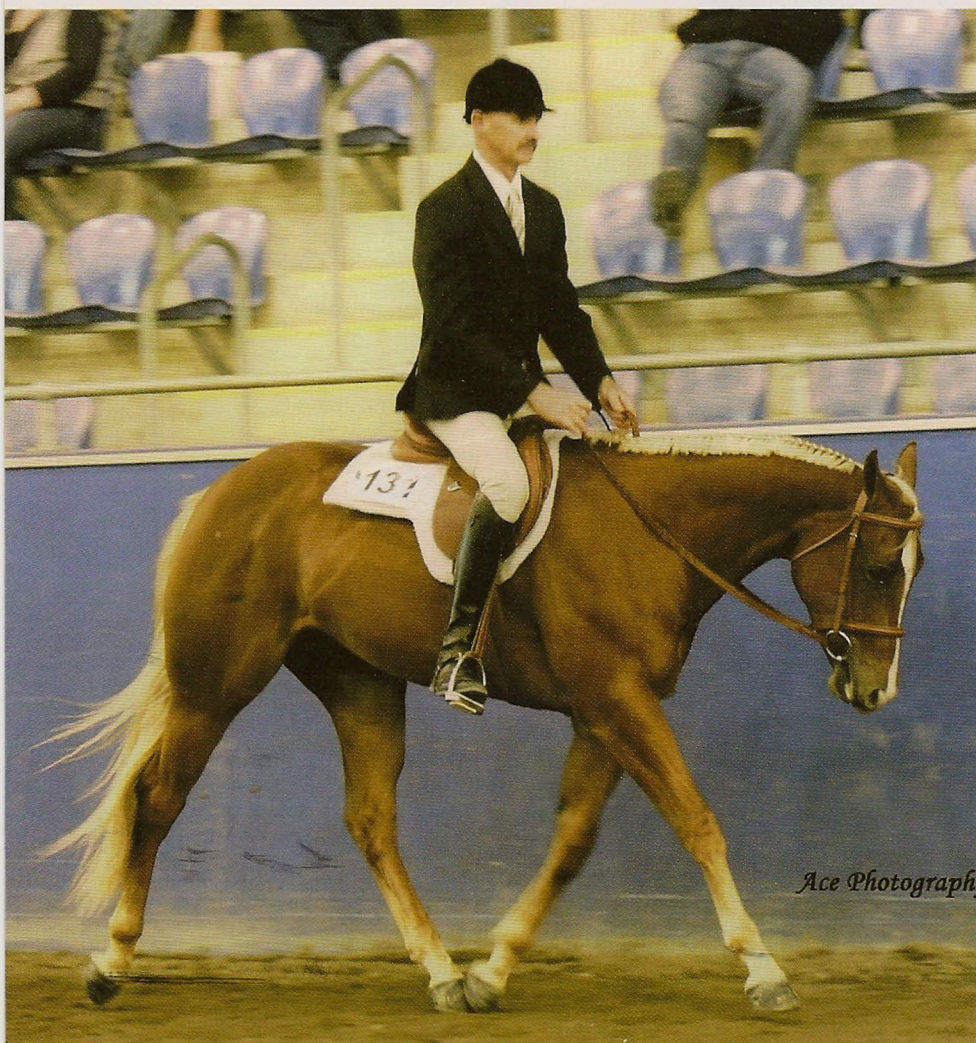
Two time winner of Barastock Horse of the year Versatility event

Five time winner of Australian Halter Showcase "Super Horse" event

Six time winner of the Australian Halter Showcase two year old Trail event

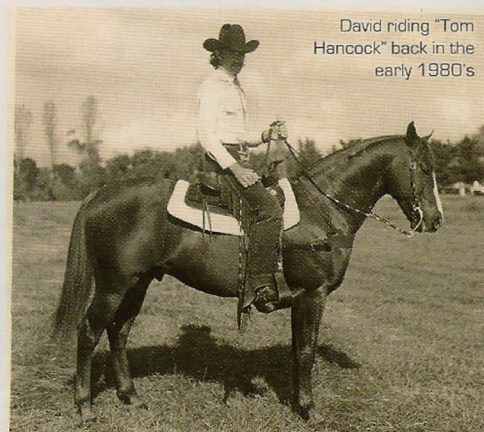
Two time winner of the Victorian Reining Open Derby

Two time Reserve Champion Equitana Reining Masters



Ace Photograph

David Norbury riding Winderadeen Feel The Heat



David riding "Tom Hancock" back in the early 1980's

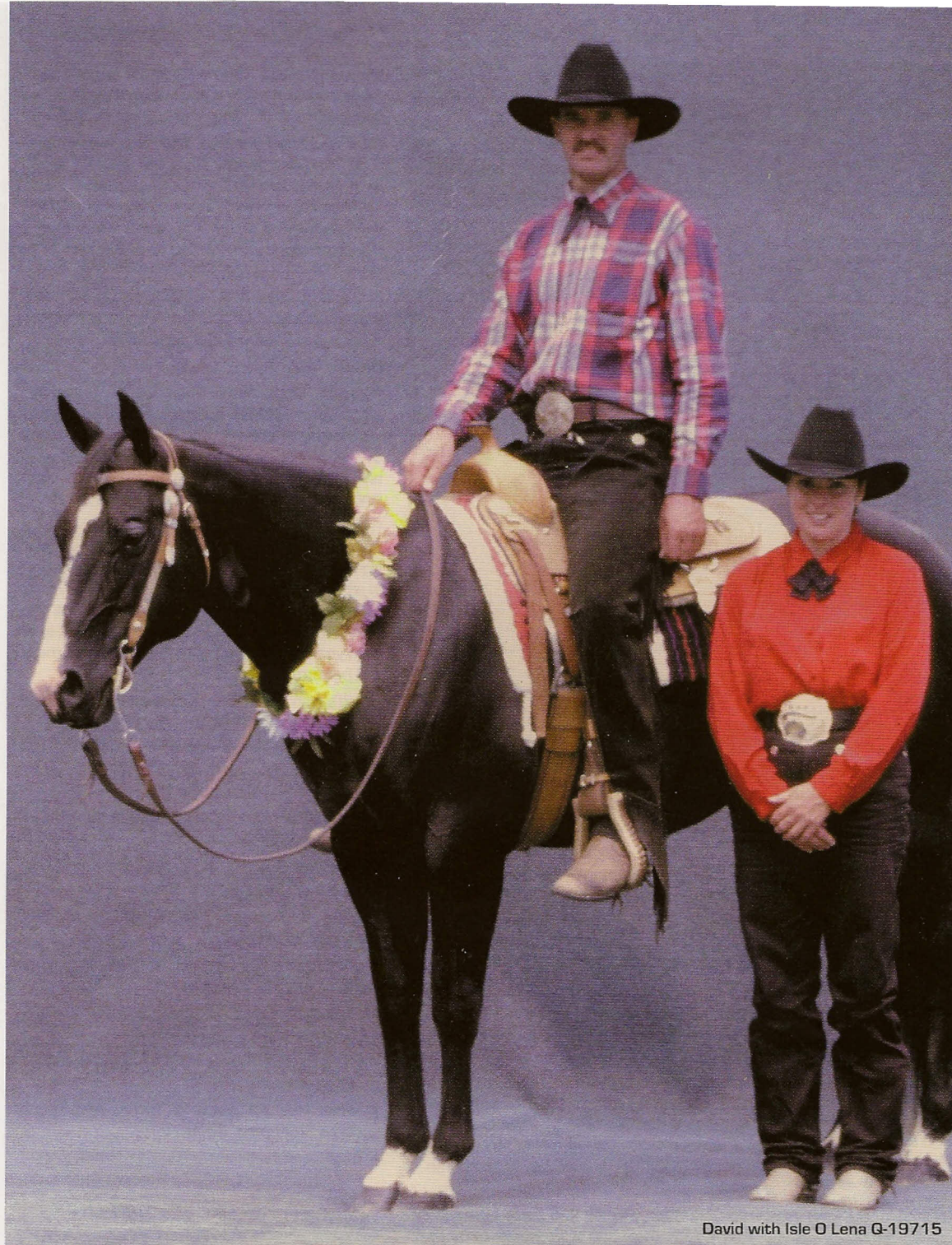
Winning a major class is a massive achievement for most of us but try winning the Australian Halter Showcase Super Horse class five times and you know you've come across someone with an amazing ability and talent unlike any other.

David Norbury is a trainer in Melbourne who has surpassed every win more than twice and still remains very modest when he speaks about his list of achievements that go on for days on end.

"The wins I've had are very much personal achievements that give me a lot of pleasure. I don't feel the need to be telling people about them unless I'm asked. I think I'm like any other person that reaches a personal goal, once you have achieved success you have this enormous amount of pride in what you have done and great sense of satisfaction," said David.

Some people have a natural gift when it comes to training horses; David seems to be one of those exceptionally talented people.

In David's career he has had more than 230 clients and 260 horses. An amazing feat for one man with a



David with Isle O Lena Q-19715

Isle O Lena
Breakin Hearts
Charary Glory B
Greenhill Sparkling Morn
Greenhill I'm a Tuff Morn
More Than Impressed
Tell Me A Story
Hez Radical Two
More Than Enough
Zippos Doc Com
Erin Silver Oak
Spins Judgement
Charary Almost Famous
Winderadeen Feel The Heat
Azure Blue
Greenhill Show Girl
Rosies Kool Image
JB Junior Doc
Hillbilly's Rose
WJ Vaudville King
Peppy's Bonanza
Peppy Shaker
Tom Hancock
Doc's Trumpet
Another Atoe
Rattlers Rosette
Annlee Hes Jim Dandy
EPS Hickory Hancock
Yugilbar Easy Chick
Fancy Oak
Yugilbar Kahlua Boy

knack when it comes to training horses.

"I have an enormous amount of gratitude for the horses that have taken me to places I never thought I would get to. The horses I have lost on have also taught me so much and forced me to improve my communication skills with them," said David.

David's credentials and street credibility have seen him invited on two occasions to demonstrate for Equitana. The first time was in 2001 where he rode Breakin Hearts Q-33736 in a demonstration on Western Pleasure and Western Riding.

"Equitana is always an amazing event. At the demonstration I also rode Azure Blue, an exceptional reining horse who I won the VRHA Futurity on. Here I was able to demonstrate all the manoeuvres we do for reining to a captivated audience of 700 people who would not have seen a lot of western events," said David.

A year later David and his daughter Courtney performed a demonstration at Equitana in front of 5,000 people.

"Whilst daunting I really do enjoy my showing and really love showing in front of large crowds," said David.

David lives on a five acre property in Kinglake West for the past 24 years with four large paddocks to spell the horses. And whilst David may have been successful in the ring he's also faced the toughest year of his life last year, when the bushfires came through his hometown of Kinglake West.

Looking back a year on, the feelings still remain true.

"Our community and surrounding areas lost in excess of 1,000 houses and many lives," said David.

"The bushfires were terrible and since then there has been very little building going on. It seems our council have introduced new building regulations which are adding a lot of extra expense to those who have lost their properties and new fire levies that are through the roof.

"We lost two of our local stores and our petrol

station which still haven't been replaced." With the town still trying to find its feet again David focuses on his horses and the importance of his family to remain sane.

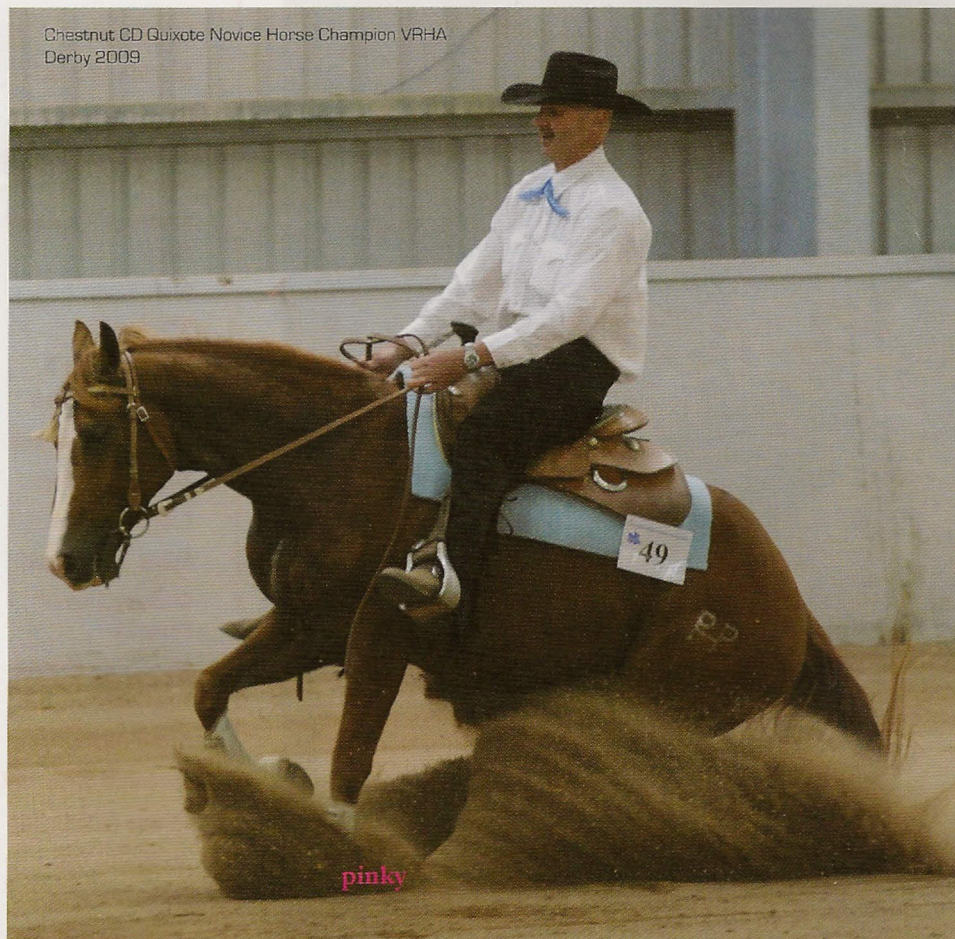
"We are now a year on and there isn't a day that passes when you're not thinking about the people who lost so much. I have spoken to friends and family members about the children that got up for breakfast that Saturday and probably sat in front of the TV watching cartoons not knowing they would not survive the day.

"I look forward to seeing those people who lost friends and family to finding some inner peace. We are always bumping into our neighbours and enquire as to how they are going and the reply is always positive but you know they are putting on a brave face so that everyone feels better.

"If it wasn't for the camaraderie and support we received from each other I don't think we would have got through it," said David.

BACK TO WHERE IT ALL BEGAN

David started training horses back in the 1980's



for Dr Neil Sist from Bundoora. Neil owned the Quarter Horse stud "Pinelodge" located outside of Shepparton and trained with the late Ray Marshall. This is where David got most of his grounding in the Quarter Horse industry and realised he could do this for a living.

After years of experience working with Ray, David developed his own style and the right formula for training some winning rides.

"I remember my first NPHA two year old Western Pleasure Futurity win was with Greenhill Sparkling Morn Q-21131 back in 1991. It was the first time I had entered this class. This horse also took me to numerous wins in all sorts of events and won the Barastock Horse of the Year which is a versatility event that I also won on Yulgilbar Easy Chick Q-24118 the year before," said David.

In 1993 David took the full brother to Greenhill Sparkling Morn Q-21131 to win his second NPHA two year old Western Pleasure Futurity win with Greenhill Ima Tuff Morn Q-24946.

"He was also a great trail horse but I only got to show him as a two year old and he is still going today.

A few years later in 1996 David rode a two year old colt to success known as More Than Im-pressed Q-29158. This horse won the NPHA two year old Western Pleasure Futurity and then came back the next year to win the inaugural three year old NPHA Western Pleasure Futurity class.

"Without a doubt the three wins in the National Pleasure Horse Association for the two year old Western Pleasure Futurity was a huge high for me.

As his career continued David decided to train a reining horse with a hidden talented known as Tell Me A Story Q-33958.

With David on board this amazingly talented horse achieved success in:

- 1999 Reserve champion to Ian Francis in the three year old National Reining Futurity.

- 1999 Reserve champion at the Reining Masters at Equitana in Melbourne.
- 2000 Champion Victorian Reining Horse Derby on a 75.5 and the Open Reining on a 75 beating many older horses as a four year old.

But the most painstaking ride for David was the year he broke his arm. With his injury flaring David continued to ride in the reining classes with Tell Me A Story Q-33958.

"The night before competition I broke my arm and the doctors couldn't set it till after the weekend so I decided to ride in a sling. I remember having a lot of people helping me that year as I couldn't even put my boots on or even get on the horse by myself.

We won the Open Reining and placed second in the Derby. After that I had eight weeks of for my arm to heal."

Tell Me A Story Q-33958 is still Reining today with Greg Peters and his daughter in the saddle and still winning major events.

Most recently David and his daughter Courtney have had win after win on a horse known as Hez Radical Two Q-50759.

"We've had this horse since a late two year old and he has done it all. He is great at all his events and an absolute pleasure to show.

He again won the Australian Halter Showcase Super Horse event for the second year in a row. Courtney has also won many open events on him. I look forward to seeing Courtney show on him more in the future."

In a career spanning three decades and some most exciting wins, it seems nothing comes close to David's time with Isle O Lena Q-19715.

"Over the years I've been very fortunate to ride some great horses. The one that stands out the most would be Erin Park's stallion "Isle O Lena". Blackie as we called him was 10 when I received him, he had competed in cutting all his life and consistently ran 75's before I received him for

pleasure training. I showed him for about three years and won every major western pleasure event in the country, he was a great horse."

After David had stopped riding Blackie, owner Julie Coen decided to let her ten year old daughter Kate ride him. At the age of 13 Blackie began another career in jumping and dressage and took Kate to many victories. "On one occasion the Dressage judge commented to Kate that she had never scored a combination so high before."

In David's unique way he stamps a print on each of his horses as solid performers, horses that are reliable and heavily competitive in the ring.

Breakin Hearts is just one example.

"Breakin Hearts was another horse I started as a two year old and placed fourth at the NPHA 2 y/o Western Pleasure Futurity. I won many major events on her including Western Riding, Reining and Trail. She is still competing today with Kodi Anderson in the saddle and continues to win major events."

"Charary Glory B Q-32917 is another great youth horse I started as a two year old who competed in all events shown by Laura Marchione and then later by Danielle Phillpots-Green. This horse has done it all and again is still very competitive in his teen years." A testament to David's skill of making top performers.

David's also had a lot of success on all rounders competing in pleasure, trail, hunter under saddle, western riding and reining, including the likes of:

- More Than Enough Q-44357 - All Rounder - AHS 2/y/o Trail Champion 2002
- Zippo's Doc Com Q-48221 - AHS 2 y/o Trail Champion 2004
- Erin Silver Oak Q-51054- AHS 2 y/o Trail Champion 2005
- Spins Judgement Q-54633- AHS Champion 2 y/o Trail 2006
- Charary Almost Famous Q-59290- AHS Champion 2 y/o Trail 2007
- Winderadeen Feel The Heat Q-60367 - AHS Champion 2 y/o Trail 2009
- Azure Blue Q-35575- VRHA Reining Futurity Champion
- Annlee Hes Jim Dandy Q-39410 - AHS "Super Horse Champion" 2006
- Yulgilbar Kahlua Boy Q-35374 - NPHA 2 y/o Western Pleasure Futurity Reserve Champion
- Fancy Oak Q-25320 - VRHA Derby horse Reining Champion 1995

With a jaw dropping career David has to be admired for his amazing ability to be a consistent producer of champion's year in and year out.

Whilst David is a superb athlete in all events from Western Pleasure, to Hunter Under Saddle and Western Riding for David there is one event that gets the blood pumping.

"When I have a reining horse that I know I can show aggressively because he or she is so well put together it really does give me a rush. Prior to a large event I can feel my adrenaline running as I near my call to begin my run.

"I remember at Equitana one year we had a couple of thousand people watching and the horse I rode was Lethal Viking Q-41121 and I was able to run him that aggressively that they used him in some promotional material later on because the photo they had of us competing was in his circle work and all four legs were of the ground because we were going so hard. The atmosphere was electric.

"Each event I show in has its own degree of difficulty and that why I like it so much."

SO JUST HOW DOES HE DO IT?

"My wife and I have, give or take, roughly eight horses in for training each show year. Having a limited amount of horses makes my job a lot easier knowing I don't have to rush through them and can focus on getting the job done correctly," said David.

"I enjoy my daily training because one minute I'm working on loping or lead changes and the next minute I'm running down my arena performing sliding stops.

But for David the best part of being a trainer is taking part in the lessons and clinics.

"The great thing about lessons is the satisfaction a rider gets when they are struggling with a certain problem and then it suddenly clicks and they get positive results. I do about 30 clinics a year; a lot of these are done through the week so I can continue to show.

"At these clinics I enjoy riding problem horses and being able to show the owner how to create softness through correct technique rather than trying to over power the horse. I have no preference as to whether I train youth or amateurs both are enjoyable.

I try to get riders to do take their horses into areas they have not entered before. Many people don't realise how important exercises are to advance their horses training. Exercises need to be nurtured and made to grow, when fully matured they become a manoeuvre, for example, hold the back end of your horse still while rotating the front, eventually this becomes the "Spin" manoeuvre or ask you horse to "Half Pass" this eventually becomes the manoeuvre of "Lead Change".

The more manoeuvres you have the more events you can do. Having this control over your horse is only going to help them not hinder them and

the personal satisfaction the rider receives from teaching their horse a new manoeuvre or event is well worth all the hard work

It is clear that part of David's success is his ability to identify exceptional performances and to analyse what he can learn from them.

"Trainers are not the only people who have helped me over the years. I have seen so many and asked so many non pro and amateur riders about various things I see them do on their horses that appeals to me. I have approached a lot of people that don't necessarily win but have a particular manoeuvre they are consistently good at so I will question them about that and then add it to my programme."

YET THE MAN WHO'S BEEN THERE AND DONE IT ALL STILL HAS AMBITIONS TO TRY ANOTHER SPORT...

"I do wish I had the opportunity to try my hand at cutting. I have a lot of ideas on how I would approach it but have never been able to put them to the test. I think the way I train a Reining horse would also be beneficial to a Cutting horse. Who knows when that opportunity might arise?

AND AS DAVID LOOKS TO THE FUTURE HE'S PROUD OF WHAT THE INDUSTRY HAS BECOME.

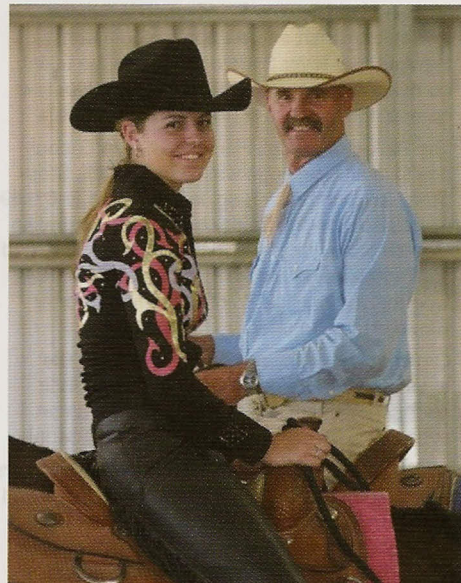
"I see the pleasure industry is heading in a positive direction due to the many volunteers that choose to run shows for us competitors and the way they hold training days as well as running beginner events to get more people into the industry.

The larger clubs also continue to put up large sums of money year after year to help attract more competitors. It is great to see how professional shows are run these days."

AND IF DAVID GETS SOME TIME AWAY FROM THE HORSES...?

"I really enjoy flying and have had lessons. I recently went in a stunt plane and did some stunt flying which was better than riding any Reining horse!" We, as a family go away every year to Northern Queensland. I do enjoy Scuba diving and go as often as I can. Throughout the year my wife Karyn and I work hard so we can enjoy time with the kids. My philosophy about work is that I work to live not live to work," said David.

David & Karyn Norbury Training Stables
PO BOX 106 Kinglake West 3757
Ph: 03 5786 5683
Email: dnorbury@iprimus.com.au



David with daughter Courtney

STARBAR Tassas Okie

Q-53591
HERDA N/N
HYPP N/R

Photo: Kim Le Plastrier

"SOME" of his achievements are:
2007 Reining Australia
Intermediate Open
Futurity and
2008 Reining Australia
Open Derby Champion

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Docs Okie Quixote USA-1613457
Sire: Proud To Be An Okie (Imp) Q-20218
Docs Taxi Dancer Usa-1094699

Smart Little Lena Usa-1565822
Tassa Lena (Imp) Q-33291
Little Tassa Usa-1483426
Dam: Tinks Little Tassa Q-42574
Docs Freckles Oak (Imp) Q-14053
Sweet Susie Oak Q-32622
Susies Dream Q-10385

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