



THE AUSTRALIAN FRIESIAN HORSE SOCIETY INC



LYCKLE B WAS THE FIRST FRIESIAN HORSE
TO COME TO AUSTRALIA. IMPORTED BY
JENNY SECREVE IN 1977.

THE FRIESIAN HORSE - its history in Australia

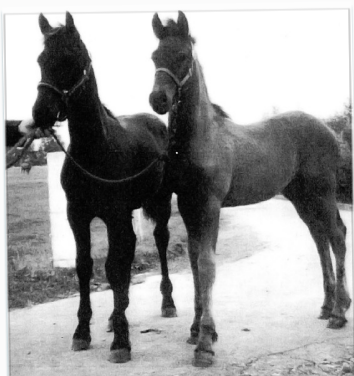
The AFHS is an official representative of the Royal Society "The Friesian Horse Studbook", Koninklijke Vereniging Het Friesch Paarden Stamboek (KFPS), based in the Netherlands. The KFPS is recognised as the world wide Studbook for the Friesian horse and is the authority of the Friesian Horse. The KFPS has organised the national societies in the World Friesian Horse Association (WFHO).

The AFHS was established in 1983 by a small group of Friesian enthusiasts and its 25th anniversary in 2009. In 1996 discussions were started to become the official affiliated society with the KFPS.

The first Friesian, a stallion called Lyckle B (Ulrig 404) was imported in 1977 by Jenny Secreve in Western Australia.

Di Hill also from WA was next to import in 1979 a stallion called Maurits Friso (x Dagho 247) and 4 mares.

No new imports until 1991 when the colt Tjeerd (x Foppe 290) and the mare Ulrika (x Jochem 259) were imported. Then followed by Iepe TJ a colt by Jurjen 303 and a mare called Hester fan Bokkum (x Oltman 317) arrived in 1994. New year's day in 1997 saw the arrival of Geert 'W' (x Dirk 298) a stallion imported by Andrew and Rachael Wood in South Australia.



HESTER & IEPE



TJEERD



MAURITS FRISO



Following Geert W, some very beautiful mares were imported, beginning with Isis (x Pyt 325) and Paige (x Laes 278) from the USA, Renske fan d Oldehoek (x Jakob 302) Sanne C (x Remmelt 323) and Krystine S (x Oege 267) from the Netherlands, to name a few.

From then on imports increased and from a small initial growth, we now have 600 registered Friesians and 150 members in Australia. One approved studbook stallion came to Australia in 2013 Maiko 373 - but has returned to the USA.

Sanne, Renske, Paige & Ulrika were awarded ster at their first keuring (inspection and classification), which was also the first keuring ever to be held in Australia in 2000.

The AFHS has organised five keuring tours, the first one in 2000, then 2003, 2006, 2009, 2011, 2013 2015 and 2017 throughout Australia and New Zealand. The inspections

are done by a jury from the mother studbook the KFPS. Initially the inspections were held every three years, but with the increase in numbers it's now every two years. Each of these keuring's offers a new step forward, achieving a new high. More horses awarded ster, more horses participating in IBOP's in 2009 the first crown mare, 2013 our first B book provisional crown mares were named and a B book II gelding awarded ster with a first premium.

Australia has seen many new imports, more and more arriving each year and enriching the now steadily growing bloodlines. These mares, along with our Australian bred mares are producing top class progeny using both our own imported stallions and frozen semen from the very best studbook stallions from around the world.

Offspring from the original imported stallions included Dagho, Friso Royal Avalon and Othello.

IMPORTED FRIESIANS



IEPE TJ



GEERT W



ISIS



RENKE FAN D OLDEHOEK

Maiko 373



Performance Friesians in Australia

Friesian horses are becoming competitive throughout Australia and are proving to be very successful in the dressage arena and in harness.

The first two stallions in Australia, Abe (x Anne 340) and Django of Cacharel (x Pike 316) were the first Friesians competing at Grand Prix level. Abe (Ebony Park Abe) was not only the first Friesian stallion in Australia to compete and win at Inter 2 level but also was the first Friesian in Australia to be awarded the sport predicate by the KFPS, followed shortly after by Django of Cacharel.

THE SPORT PREDICATE IS AWARDED FOR HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN DRESSAGE OR DRIVING.

Stallions with the sports title

Six other stallions in Australia have also been awarded the sport predicate, Hotse d.v (x Jasper 366), Jacana TK (x Ulke 338), Hilwert L (x Nanning 374), Kai (x Onne 376) and Omer R.S fan Top en Twel (x Brandus 345) as well as Australia's only studbook stallion Maiko 373 (x Tsjerk 328). One stallion in New Zealand also has been awarded the sport predicate, Jolmer fan Twillens (x Onne 376).

Mares with the sports title

The mares Ynke fan de Greidpleats (x Nykle 309), Klaske fan'e Olde Hoek (xJakob 302) Ellie fan de Waldhoeve (x Abe 346) and Crown mare Tieke van't Lansink (x Mintse 384) have also been awarded a sport predicate. This means they complete at lease at Medium level dressage or dressage-driving.

****Only around 5% of the Friesian population are awarded the sport predicate.**



ABE

IMPORTED STER STALLION THAT HAS THE HONOUR OF BEING THE FIRST FRIESIANS IN AUSTRALIA TO MAKE AN BIG IMPACT ON THE DRESSAGE ARENAS.

A SON OF ANNE 340

ABE IS ALSO KNOWN AS
EBONY PARK ABE.



DJANGO

BORN IN AUSTRALIA, DJANGO OF CACHAREL WAS SADLY ORPHANED AS A FOAL. HE WAS LOVINGLY HAND RAISED AND HAS NOW MATURED INTO A VERY PROMINENT STALLION IN THE DRESSAGE ARENA.

A SON OF PIKE 316 OUT OF A STER MARE IMPORTED TO AUSTRALIA, RENSKÉ.

HARNESS

FRIESIANS ARE VERY SUCCESSFUL HARNESS HORSES.

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST CAMPAIGNED HARNESS FRIESIAN WAS MAURITS FRISO, THAT, PICTURED HERE MADE THE JOURNEY FROM WA TO VIC TO COMPETE IN THE ROYAL MELBOURNE SHOW IN 1985





Two mares have been awarded with the very special predicate of 'Preferent'. This means that at least four of their offspring have gone on to achieve a ster predicate. Rixt T (x Rypke 321) and Ymkje Z. (x Nykle 309).

ORIGINS AND HISTORY

To understand why the breed is what it is today and why it is still here, we have to go back to its origins. Friesland is one of the 12 provinces of the kingdom of the Netherlands. Dating back to around 500BC, it stretched from the now Belgian border to Germany. It was populated by "Friesain Tribes", which, according to the Romans were barbarians. In actual fact, these barbarians were seafarers, fishermen, tradesmen, cattle breeders and horse breeders. It is believed that the Friesian horse's most influential ancestor was the enormous Northern European Horse, *Equus robustus*, which roamed the lands and was used by the Friesian population to wage battle. The Romans couldn't conquer the Friesian horsemen, so they hired them as mercenaries for their armies. Proof of this was found near the Hadrian Wall which the Romans built to contain the wild Scottish. A tombstone with a Friesian soldier on a horse was found in that area.

A significant part in the history of the Friesian horse was that they became a heavy weight-bearing saddle horse for the crusaders to the Middle East. Because the crusades kept the knights and soldiers away for many years, they bred their horses with the lighter *Equus*

Oriental, from which the Arabian horse is the representative. Not only were the Friesian horses strong, docile and enduring, they also became better looking.

During the 16th and 17th centuries, the Netherlands was occupied by the Spanish. The influence of the Spanish horse led eventually to the heavy mane and tail and high knee and hock action for which the breed is now very well known. At that time, the Dutch Masters painted many of the rich and famous sitting astride a Friesian Horse. As a result, the breed ultimately became the preferred horse of the aristocracy.

At the same time, the Friesian became the preferred horse of the "Lord" farmers of Friesland, as well as the preferred horse for the now fashionable invention of trotting races over 325 meters (a quarter mile) held on Sundays after church. While this was initially done on a blanket only (no saddle) it was followed by trotting races in harness. This nearly caused the demise of the Friesian horse, as breeders discovered that by creating a lighter breed by out crossing, the horses could race much faster. The Friesians were also threatened by the so-called "upperlanders"; horses that were bred in the south of Friesland. The Gelderlander, which is one of the foundation breeds of the Dutch Warmbloods, is an example of that type of horse.

In 1879 a small number of concerned Friesian farmers met in a pub in Friesland and decided to establish a studbook for Friesian horses and cattle.

This foresight has saved the Friesian from extinction, and all bloodlines can now be traced back to 1910 to 3 stallions. Tetman 205, Age 168, and Ritske 202.

Each of these sires trace heir blood to Paulus 121, who was born in 1913 and entered into the studbook in 1916. He in turn can be traced back three generations to the original 19th century studbook foundation sire, Nemo 51, born in 1885.

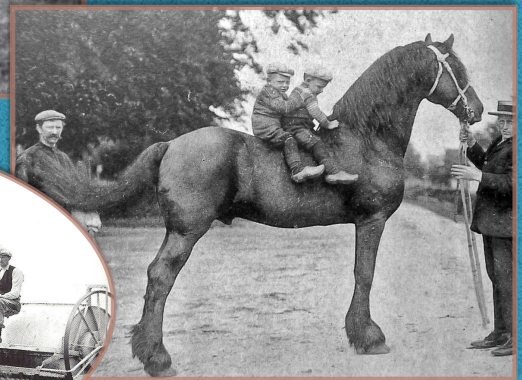
Eventually only a purebred Friesian would be registered and the cattle register became independent; from then on the Friesian studbook became a closed register.

As the breed at that stage was only kept in Friesland, the breeders looked for hors with shorter legs and heavier bodies so they could work on the land during the week, pull a sulky to church on Sunday morning and be taken for a ride in the afternoon.



Up until WWII, the Friesian was used mainly on the land, or pull a coach, the typical Friesian Gig (Sjees). The tradition of trotting races, with ring spearing was held in the villages once a year. In 1960, there were only 600 Friesian horses registered in the studbook. The breed was again threatened with extinction.

FRIESIANS FROM THE PAST



SAVED FROM EXTINCTION & NOW IN DEMAND

FRIESIAN FACTS

1. ONLY BLACK IS ACCEPTED, NO WHITE ANYWHERE OTHER THAN A STAR ON THE FOREHEAD, NO BIGGER THAN AN AUSTRALIAN 50 CENT COIN.
2. THE FRIESIAN HAS BEEN WHITE, CHESTNUT AND ROAN COLOURED IN THE PAST.
3. FRIESIANS ARE A VERSATILE BREED, THEY CAN BE USED FOR DRESSAGE, DRIVING, LIGHT FARM WORK OR PLEASURE RIDING.

Since 1980, the breed has undergone an enormous revival, and now number about 60,000 registered purebred Friesians worldwide. The main trigger has been the recreational use of horses. Equestrians around the world have discovered the Friesian because of its beauty and its temperament and gently disposition.



While the Friesian was influenced by Arabians and Spanish horses, the breed itself has influence over other breeds. The Dale and Fell ponies, Orlov Trotter, the Oldenburg and even the Morgan is said to have been influenced at some point. More recently, the Friesian studbook stallion, Romke, spent 10 years in the Czech Republic being used to establish a new line in the nearly extinct Kladruber breed.



MARES IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY



ALITSKE FRISO
THE FIRST
FRIESIAN
FOAL BORN
IN AUSTRALIA



RIXT T - AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PREFERENT MARE.

FIRST MARES TO ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA, NYNKE (TOP LEFT), NANKE (RIGHT) AND OTSKE (MIDDLE LEFT) IMPORTED BY DI HILL IN WA.

ULRIKA, AWARDED STER AT AUSTRALIA'S FIRST KEURING





PREDICATES

The keuring system uses a number of predicates to indicate the quality of the horse, and is determined by the percentage of the population that may be awarded this predicate. The minimum age for mares and geldings to be admitted into the studbook is 3 years. They can be awarded the '**ster**' predicate if they have obtained a 1st or 2nd premium. The quality measurement is that 30-35% of the breed meets this standard. When mares are consistent, 1st premie quality, they can become '**Crown**' (Kroon) mares if their height is 158cm or taller and are 4 years old. In addition they have to pass a '**talent**' test called an IBOP. Only around 2% achieve crown status. If the Crown mare has mothered a foal successfully, they then can become '**model**' at 7 years of age and have to be 160cm or taller. A model mare is around 0.5% of the Friesian population.

Stallions are not classified by the premie system but they can become a '**ster**'. There are a number of other predicates such as 'sport', which they obtain when they perform at a specified level. '**Preferent**' is given to those horses that produce four or more '**ster**' offspring. Only 2 or 3% of the population reach this status.

PERFORMANCE TESTING

Performance testing was first introduced for the stallions to be admitted to the studbook and become licensed to stand at stud. After a stallion has 'survived' 3 rounds of inspections of which one is in November followed by two rounds and the big stallion show in January, they are invited to the 70 day testing program. This program involves a ridden part, a driven part and a general behaviour part. Other performance tests are an IBOP, which is ridden or driven and the main objective is to determine the suitability and talent of the horse for dressage or driving. It's a 10 minute test, compared to dressage at novice level. The ABFP test is over a much longer duration, generally about 5 weeks.

BREEDING STALLIONS

The studbook stallions have all been tested for suitability and performance, as well as for semen

quality and joint problems. They undergo a full x-ray of all joints and are DNA tested for the chestnut factor. After the stallion has been granted studbook status and licensed to stand at stud, he then has to be 'approved on offspring'. A selection of offspring over a number of years will be performances tested through the ABFP test. If the stallion is then 'approved on offspring' he will receive a permanent licence. If possible all stallions under the age of 13 years of age must be presented at the yearly stallion show in from or around 8,000 spectators. They can compete to become the Champion Friesian Stallion.



Because of the limitations in having an approved Friesian stallion in countries where the numbers are relatively small and importing frozen semen is difficult, the KFPS uses a system of breeding permits for foalbook stallions (stallions that are not in the studbook).

They are quality stallions that might have been to the stallion selections and testing by missed out by a small margin. They can be awarded a limited breeding permit on recommendation by the local association.





BREEDING REGISTERS

Depending on the horse's individual status, horses may be registered in one of the 4 registers.

All books have a foal and adult section and registers for mares, geldings and stallions.

Entry into the main studbook is only possible for a horse of which the parents are both in **the main studbook**.

There are 2 sub books; Bbook I and Bbook II. Bbook I is generally for horses that have a dam that is registered in the main studbook or in Bbook I and by a foalbook stallion with a limited breeding permit, or in specific cases where the Dam is in BbookII, and is bred to a studbook stallion or a foalbook stallion with a limited breeding permit.

Breeding to a foalbook stallion without a permit, results in the offspring being registered in Bbook II.

There is a D book which is applicable in cases where the mare is bred to a FPZV (German Friesian Breeding Society) approved breeding stallion. All books have a foal and adult section and registries for mares, geldings and stallions.

Stallion is in	KFPS studbook	Foalbook stallion with a breeding permit.	Foalbook Main, Bb1, Bb2
Mare is in:			
KFPS main book	Main book	Bbook I	Bbook II
Bbook I	Bbook I	Bbook I	Bbook II
Bbook II	Bbook I	Bbook I or II *	Bbook II

*If sire of B-book II mare is a B-book I or studbook stallion.

MORE FRIESIAN FACTS

1. FRIESIANS ARE USED EXTENSIVELY IN MOVIES – THIS STARTED WITH THE MOVIE 'LADY HAWKE', WITH THE LEADING ACTOR, RUTGER HAUSER PLAYING A KNIGHT RIDING A FRIESIAN STALLION CALLED GOLIATH (REAL NAME OTHELLO).
2. THE THREE MAIN BLOODLINES ARE 'TETMAN', AGE (PRONOUNCED 'ARUHK') AND RITSKE. EVERY FRIESIAN ALIVE CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THESE THREE STALLIONS.
3. THERE ARE CURRENTLY 6 FOAL BOOK STALLIONS WITH LIMITED BREEDING PERMITS STANDING AT STUD IN AUSTRALIA.



CONTACT THE AFHS

If you are considering purchasing a Friesian horse, importing or would just like more information about this beautiful breed

Please do not hesitate to contact us:

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