

NEWHAVEN STATION

Newhaven station is on the traditional lands of the Ngalia-Warlpiri/Luritja people. Native title was acknowledged in 2010, it recognised the Ngalia-Warlpiri/Luritja people as the traditional owners of Newhaven.

It's in the Tanami region, north east of Alice Springs in the Northern Territory. It was taken up by Alex Coppock in the late 1950's, being 265,501 hectares; previously it was not a station. Alex's wife named it Newhaven in 1959. In 1959 Alex brought horses there from his father's property on the Stuart Highway. He put in bores for water. There were no horses on Newhaven when he took it up.*

His father's property was Gilbeanie* on the Stuart Highway. Gilbert and Elizabeth Coppock, his parents, took it up in 1930. The horses there were locally obtained. Over the 1930's and 40's, passing drovers left tired horses there, or old ones, and Alex's father gave them a replacement of one of his young horses. This way new blood came in, NT blood and Qld blood, possibly some WA blood. Alex's father therefore had a good collection of Central Australian genetics with a bit from wider afield, all working cattle horse blood. Alex grew up with horses, and built two good sets of horse yards on Gilbeanie, the first when he was 14 years old.

After 42 years on Newhaven, Alex sold up. Birds Australia bought the property. They planned to remove all water sources and kill all the horses. Alex went to a lot of trouble to try and find them homes, so he was fond of them, and didn't like to see a good horse going to the meatworks. Some went to a relative in W.A. Noel Fraser got a lot (via Peterborough meatworks?) and these went to several homes as Noel sold them. People such as Jac and Ben Kindblud travelled over to Noel's in South Australia to buy their Newhaven horses. Peter Fischer supported saving the Newhavens and registered them as Walers - he also had to fight off those opposed to saving them, who ironically professed to be interested in the survival of the Waler breed.

Newhaven was sold by Birdlife Australia to the Australian Wildlife Conservancy; they're doing a good job of feral cat eradication and renamed it Newhaven Sanctuary. Visitors are welcome. Alex has been helpful as a guide and mentor to many scientists there over the years.

Alex said there were quite a few "pretty horses" - some chestnut and white and some blue and white that he bred. Some of these were saved. He hated when the horse trucks came when he sold, as whether mad or good, all horses went off, and he knew "their heads would be cut off," that is, go to the meatworks. He gave some pretty horses, good natured, to some Aboriginal people who looked after them well.

After he took up Newhaven, he also took up Mount Gurner on its north west border. The horses there and some at Bililuna came from Newhaven.

Alex said a vast stretch of dry country separated his place from Braitlings and horses didn't cross that area, and there weren't a lot of horses on Braitlings anyway when he got Newhaven. He said most wild horses then were over Tempe Downs way. That was good to know as previously I'd assumed the horses on Braitlings may have drifted there. As there were no horses on Newhaven when Alex bought it, there's no need to go into the genetics of other Tanami horses here.

The horses Alex took there stayed on Newhaven in genetic isolation due to being landlocked by vast dry areas. A wonderful saviour of Central Australian horse genetics of yore. It was a tough environment so they became wise and hardy. Alex provided water which was gladly welcomed by birds and other animals in dry times. He very much loved the property. His brand was CTA which was on all the Newhaven horses which left the station.

Alex also got a chestnut stallion, by a Percheron stallion out of a Thoroughbred mare, and put on Newhaven about 1970. It threw good bone, a good quiet temperament but a rather short neck.

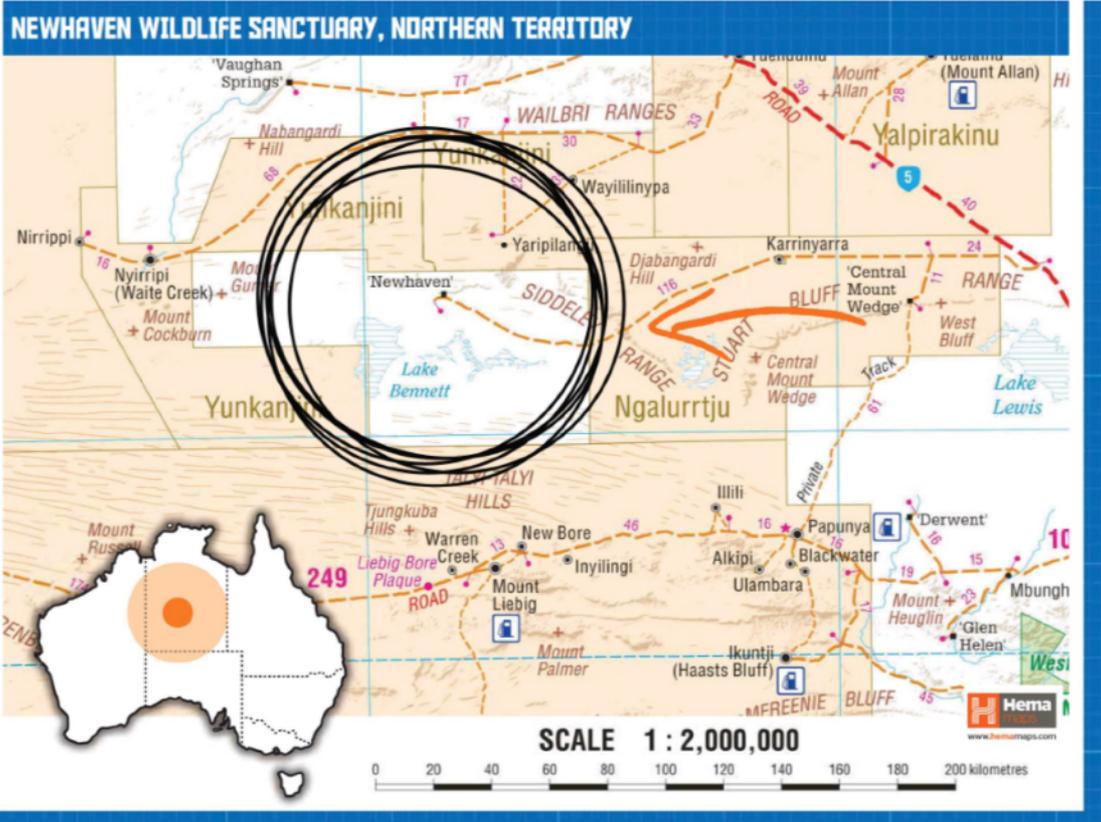
There are no horses or donkeys on Newhaven now. The environmental organisations also cull any camels that come on there by aerial shooting as camels still wander there occasionally. There is a rabbit problem now.

Most of the horses that came off Newhaven are lost to time - dead of old age, and never recorded, or recorded where no-one can access the information, if recorded at all. We'll put all we can find on this website - information most welcome, and corrections. As horse entries are brief on this site, any extra background information on Newhavens will be added to this doco. Please know we also have a Facebook page called Waler Data Base, so information may be relayed there either as a post, comment or message. Or through this website on the contact form. Or directly to me Janet Lane (while I'm still alive!) email walerwild@gmail.com.

*This and several other details from interview by phone with Alex Coppock of Alice Springs, 27th January 2022, with Janet Lane of Tasmania.

#Gilbeanie also spelled Gibeanie

Map : from PressReader website. Link: <https://www.pressreader.com/>



Janet Lane 2022

Author

Waler Data Base

Rang Alex 27th January 2022, he lives in Alice Springs. He is elderly, and rather hard of hearing (bad phone line); said there were no horses on Newhaven when he took it up. He took horses and goats there in 1959 from his father's station on the Stuart Highway between Aileron and Gibeanie (I think they lived on Gibeanie). His father took their place up in the 1930's. He got local horses and as it was a stop-over for drovers for many years he would swap them one of his young horses for one of theirs that was knocked up, over the 1930's and 1940's. So in that way he said they weren't always particularly good horses although some were simply old and were good horses.

His father didn't like horses much and Alex said he wasn't that fond of them either. They got a bit out of hand with numbers on Newhaven. He gave quite a few pretty horses to some Aboriginal people as they looked after them. He had some really good pretty horses, chestnut and white and blue and white. He thinks some got saved in 2000 (yes). Once they went on the truck they always got their heads cut off whether mad ones or good quiet ones, which was sad about the good ones, so he would rather give them away than that happen (so it seems despite what he says he really did like them!). It was always awful seeing horses go on the truck.

He bought a chestnut stallion that was by a Percheron stallion out of a Thoroughbred mare and put on there about 1970. No idea where he got it from - despite shouting he could not hear some questions, possibly a bad phone line; he was not being evasive at all, on the contrary as helpful as possible. This stallion put good bone back into the horses, he was good natured too, but tended to throw a short neck.

His brand was CTA so any old horses may have that but he thinks they'd all be dead by now. He sounded proud of his brand. They came off in the year 2000. He was very pleased to know some people had the originals and looked after them very well, broke them in and took them out and about - and some people now have the descendants and love them too. He said people are calling them Walers but he wouldn't. He told me what a Waler is (a horse from NSW of a certain colour and height etc). One does not mind that as one always learns something and we all have different ideas and interests, and with the hearing issue it takes too long to explain one's own theories, DNA testing (Newhavens have been proved Walers by DNA) etc.

I asked did any local wild horses wander onto there from other Tanami areas, such as Braitling's horses, and he said no as there was a big stretch of very dry country cutting his place off from wild horse areas, and there weren't many on Braitling's place anyway when he went up there; so that is really interesting; and that most of the wild horses were over Tempe Downs way, that area.

It made Newhaven indeed truly isolated genetically, so those 1930's and 40's NT horses that came over with Alex in 1959 (their offspring anyway) are the real background of the Newhaven horses.

I must have heard this long ago as bells were ringing non stop in my head; I did research into those horses on his Dad's place at one stage. The organisation I gave all that research to should have it; basically good central Australian stock. Possibly some Qld blood came through with drovers. He spoke of the Garden station horses and how they bred real Walers once but no more.

A good honest man, very old now, and very, very grateful to him for putting up with yet another query about his horses when all this should have been recorded when they were first gotten from the bush - like all of them. I know at the time Alex did a lot to try and place his horses, free, rather than them going to the meatworks, so despite his gruff manner, he really did care for them, a lot. Thank you to Peter Fischer for going to the trouble to find them homes, and to Noel Fraser and all at the time who took Newhavens on.

ok over and out for now coffee time.

Janet.

Facebook WDB page 27th Jan 2022

Newhaven Two Up

Sonny (his paddock name) was first bought by Noel Fraser of South Australia, then sold to Ian Plum of Mulpemoh Stud, Victoria. Then to K. Higginbottom, ACT, where he passed away after a paddock accident. Ian says he sired about 100 foals. One named Twoey went to Clayton Station as a stallion, buckskin and white.

Ian Plum

I got two up the name I chose for him “ from the bloke that caught him Nowl Frazier he contacted whoabaa he had him there for a couple of years he contacted me . Sonny was 5 yr old unhandled was ran in with a mob that had grown out by Noel they were run in to go to Peterborough , he said he was to good a type and nature to go there any way I just asked him to teach him to tie up . He was transported here to vic from sa in a b double cattle truck , loaded into a float by all but carrying him in . At the time I had a broken arm so was pretty hard but stock truck driver gave me a hand . He settled in with in a day or two I was home with the arm and thought I will break this boy with in 5 days I was in him arm out of plaster in 4 days of having him with in the week I was riding him around town ,moved to my new propert he was put out to stud duties , where he jumped a gate but his back leg got caught through the bars in the gate had to cut gate to get him out nearly broke his hock joint never the same so was retired to serve had him for 10 years on sold to the Higginbottoms near Canberra .. he is now deceased broke a leg paddock injury ,, I don't know the capture date sorry

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