

Stop the Press...

40 year old Fury and his amazing life story...

The photo attached is from the Western Times newspaper and was the last competition event for Fury for 2006. Since November he has been pretty much on holidays on some river country, although he did have some mustering to do for a couple of days. Fury has become a walking advertisement for Mitavite Gumnuts. Almost every event which Fury attends brings people asking about Fury and they are told about his gumnut diet (such as they way you initially heard about Fury from David Finch). A few years ago when I first ordered Gumnuts from the local store they hadn't heard of them, but now the demand is so great they are sometimes out of stock.

So a story on Fury's life - I'll do my best.

Fury is a stockhorse X pony who is over 40 years old and arrived in our family a few years ago. His previous owners had outgrown him and he had been turned out for many years.

When Fury first arrived he was in poor paddock condition, lethargic and his coat was very long and shabby (we nicknamed him Furry). Fury would not have lasted another year in that paddock. At the time my husband and I were very busy with cattle work and Fury was to be a safe "high spot" for our then two year old to sit and be safe. [I wish I had a photo of the day when (after giving instruction to the two year old to sit tight and wait at the yards for us to return) we rode off to bring some cattle in. We were a little longer than expected and as we topped a rise looking down on the cattle yards I anxiously scanned for the pony and child. I found that our instructions to "wait" had been followed and our daughter was asleep on Fury's neck with Fury also asleep, head and neck down (a photo imprinted in my mind but unfortunately not on paper).]

Fury was started on gumnuts mixed with lucerne chaff, white chaff and millrun. His progress was immediate with weight gain and higher energy levels and improved coat condition.

It was never our intention for Fury to return to competition but that's how it panned out and after teaching all of our four children to ride he is still being ridden by our youngest (five year old) and competing at Gymkhana's, Pony Club and Shows.

Fury not only has regular competition from April through to October (the cooler months for us) but has to travel as far as 550km one way for some of these competitions. For any horse this is tiring enough but Fury definitely has more stamina than our horses who are not on a mitavite ration.

Fury receives his gumnut mixed ration morning and night, is rugged, stabled and clipped during the season and comes up with a shine as good as (or even better) than the younger horses. I would like to see more people take up the option of changing the diet of an ageing horse to gumnuts in preference to turning the horse or pony out for retirement. As long as the animal is in sound condition, gumnuts can make a huge difference. I have proven this to myself by taking Fury off his gumnut mix when the competition season is over. I found that he fell away quickly and took a long time to pick up so now for the last few seasons he remains on his mix even when out of work.



RIGHT: The Toompine Gymkhana was a huge success again this year and Amy Steele of Eromanga certainly enjoyed the fun on her pony in the flag race. Photo courtesy of Sarah Pegler.