

The Connemara Pony Society of New Zealand Incorporated

Newsletter April 2003

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Jottings From Your President

This weekend has broken the drought for us in the Sth, things were getting grim for those earning a living from the land but once again nothing like Australia where I believe areas of the drought are increasing. We have recently had another successful committee meeting, the most exciting outcome being that the AGM is going to be held in Auckland without comm. Members arranging the venue etc on 26th July—watch your mailbox for further details.

A successful Ribbon Day was held by dedicated Connemara Society Members, well done. We, as a Society, may look at this area of promotion of our ponies, could be one in the North and one in the South but things such as insurance, public liability will have to be investigated.

Sharyn tells me that I am only allowed a little space as this newsletter is shaping up to be lengthy, everything to be of interest and to keep us all abreast of what is happening out there in the NZ Connemara World. Sharyn can only produce these interesting newsletters if you the members send things to her so keep up the good work

Several of my ponies have found new homes recently, Scarlet, Devon, Kilvington, Inish and Briar. Some on lease and others sold. I hope to have some firsthand photos of some native Connemaras early next month after our Kathryn comes back from her whirlwind trip to Ireland. She is one of two teachers who are accompanying students to Europe and England. She left today 6-4-03 and has a few free days over Easter when she is going to backpack through Ireland her goal; Galway Bay (depending on the weather)—oh to be carrying her pack!!! See those of you who can get to AGM, I am looking forward to putting faces to names,

Taieri Hore.

From the Secretary's Office

Please note Bridget's new address – Galways Road, Cannington, R D 14, Cave, South Canterbury.

New Members: A warm welcome to Michelle Gibb, 60 Blackbridge Road, Karaka, RD1, Auckland; Rose Parmee, 271 German Road, Glentui, R D, Oxford; Julie Prebble, 1547 Alfriston Road, R D 1, Manurewa, Auckland; Karla Tarr, 2/164 Kapa Road, Orakei, Auckland.

Subs: Please pay these promptly if you have not already done so!!

Upcoming Annual General Meeting

The 2003 Annual General Meeting of the Connemara Pony Society of New Zealand Inc. is to be held in Auckland (venue & time to be confirmed) on Saturday the 26th of July.

Nomination of Candidates for Election to the Committee (per Clause 11 of the Constitution)

- 11.1 Not less than 42 days prior to the next AGM, the Secretary shall send to each full member at his or her registered address, a request for nominations of candidates for election to the Committee.
- 11.2 Nominations shall be signed by the nominator and seconder, both of whom are to be full members of the Society, and by the nominee.
- 11.3 Nominations should reach the Secretary not less than 28 days prior to the date of the AGM.
- 11.4 Not less than 21 days prior to the date of the AGM, the Secretary shall send to each full member at his or her registered address, voting papers containing the names of the duly nominated candidates.
- 11.5 Members shall return their voting papers, sealed in the official numbered envelope, marked with the words "Voting Papers" to the Secretary, no later than seven days prior to the AGM.
- 11.6 Candidates shall have been full members of the Society for at least 12 months prior to the date of nomination.
- 11.7 If no nominations for the Committee have been received by the Secretary by the time set out in sub-clause 11.3 thereof, then, but not otherwise, nominations may be called for from those members present at the AGM.

Note: Nomination forms are enclosed with this Newsletter.

Please also note that as per *Clause 16 of the Constitution* "Any person desiring a Notice of Motion to be proposed at the AGM shall give notice thereof to the Secretary not less than 14 days prior to such meeting and the Secretary shall forward details of such Notices of Motion to all members not less than 7 days before such a meeting."

Leasing

There is an alteration in the Studbook Rules, Pg.4, **Leasing**: delete Para 3 and add in its place "*Leasees of Studbook ponies to be used for breeding purposes, must be full members of the Society.*"

Please note the Registrar must be informed of any pony's death or lease on the official forms, these are available from the Registrar and are usually sent, along with all the other forms, when a pony is registered. If you are unsure about what to put in a lease agreement the Registrar does have a suggested Lease Agreement form available. Your lease is a private agreement, the Society is not involved.

From the Registrars Desk

I am sure you will all be pleased to know that the man from whom the Society saved the seven Takou Bay colts (that very fortunate band of brothers) has been found guilty of "wilfully mistreating a stallion and failing to meet the needs of a dozen other horses". I believe they were found in a terrible state. Sadly he was only fined \$13000, he should have had a jail sentence and if I had my way, a horse whipping as well! Two years ago he had arranged to get the colts but the Society, with the help of some wonderful members who put up the money, were able to buy them quickly thus saving them from one of the most cruel men I have ever known. The stallion was so badly hurt he had to be put down. Apart from that drama, everything at the Registrars Desk is going smoothly.

Foal Registrations – 1st Jan – 31st Mar 2003

Non Stud Book Register – Tallyho Lilly, Tallyho Violet, Ridgeway Ailish, Ridgeway Kilsa, Timaunga Firefly

Partbred Filly – Emerald Star

Partbred Colt – Chieftans Bounty

Adult Purebred Re-Registration – Ridgeway Sapphire (who had apparently been renamed Ridgeway Shamrock some years ago & thus “lost”).

Adult Partbred Re-Registration – Kohekohe Frosty Boy (he had also been “lost” for some time).

I would reiterate PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE TRANSFER your ponies through the Society when you sell them, it is \$10 very well spent. I would also be grateful if you could tell me when a pony dies as it helps keep the records straight.

Transfers

<i>Name of horse/pony</i>	<i>Transferred from</i>	<i>Transferred to</i>
Terra Nova Gwendoline	Brigid Verry	Karen Shanley
Lonsdale Storm	W. Gordon	Brittany Richardson
Takou Bay Moonlight	Karen Shanley	Sue Burgess
Banshee	Liz Turnbull	Jessica Murphy
Tallyho Mozambique	Sharyn Greer	Mitchell Roberts
Taihoa Puff-n-Stuff	Maria Manning	Belinda Roelofsma

Regards

Mary Kelly

News from the North

Thirty pure and part bred Connemaras gathered at Sonshine Ranch, Ardmore, for our Connemara Show Day on 1st February. We were very fortunate in securing three pairs of “fresh eyes” for our judging panel. Irishman Mr Alan Dobson of Simmingstone Equestrian Park, Drury, sorted the Led Classes. Alan learned to ride on a Connemara pony and has worked with Connemaras in Ireland and the USA. Fen & Sharyn Greer of the Tallyho Connemara Stud, Waimate, ended up on a busmans’ holiday when they were called upon to judge ridden classes in the blistering heat.



Winners of the *Lady Marshall Trophy* for points accumulated in the Ridden Events were Tracey McMurtrie on Sonshine Jaiga, a bay mare by Ganty Champ out of a Clydie cross mare.

Picture: Sonshine Jaiga

We owe a huge vote of thanks to John Fleet who set the programme, promoted and advertised, booked judges and ribbons, did the road signs, judges lunches and took the entries – it usually takes a whole committee to achieve that much! Also, thank you to Hans Notter and his helpers from Sonshine Ranch who provided a superb venue, with spotless loos and rings all set up ready for us – also organised a great team of Sonshine ponies plus handlers and riders for the day, who had a great day!

Anna McNaughton

Show Results

The results of the Connemara Ribbon Day, held at Ardmore Pony Club, Auckland on 1st February 2003 are as follows –

Best Presented (25 entries)	1 st	Knockrah River & Julie Prebble
	2 nd	Seahill Padre & Nicky Stroud
	3 rd	Kohekohe Frost Boy & Britt Owens
	4 th	Bunratty Caroles' Deilght & Josh O'Leary
Partbred 2 or 3yr old, <i>any sex</i> (4 entries)	1 st	Sonshine Legacy Duchess (Hans Notter)
	2 nd	Sonshine Snuggles (Chelsea)
	3 rd	Martray Orion (Anna Stewart)
	4 th	Sonshine Millenium Dawn (Shannon Notter)

Champion Youngstock Connemara – *Sonshine Legacy Duchess*

Reserve Champion Youngstock Connemara – *Sonshine Snuggles*

Purebred Male, <i>4 yrs & over</i> (5 entries)	1 st	Ambury Aran (Glen Cowan)
	2 nd	Knockrah River (Julie Prebble)
	3 rd	Canningvale Irish Duke (Joanna Wells)
	4 th	Sonshine Sunny Boy (Daniel Peden)
Partbred Male <i>4 yrs & over</i> (11 entries)	1 st	Sonshine Sir Prize (Shannon Notter)
	2 nd	Kohekohe Frosty Boy (Britt Owens)
	3 rd	Sonshine Joeli (Nicole Peden)
	4 th	Seahill Padre (Nicky Stroud)
Purebred Female, <i>4 yrs & over</i> (5 entries)	1 st	Bunratty Caroles' Delight (Josh O'Leary)
	2 nd	Ridgeway Gift (Sam Stewart)
	3 rd	Bunratty Pearl (Olivia Newman)
	4 th	Takou Bay Juliet (Marissa Spencer)
Partbred Female, <i>4 yrs & over</i> (6 entries)	1 st	Sonshine Dusk (Janet Griggs)
	2 nd	Sonshine Jaiga (Tracey McMurtrie)
	3 rd	Sonshine Morning Star (Kim Thomas)
	4 th	Sonshine Gema (Rene Deverick)

Champion Adult Connemara – *Sonshine Dusk*

Reserve Champion Adult Connemara - *Bunratty Caroles' Delight*

Supreme Champion Connemara – *Sonshine Legacy Duchess*



Ambury Aran
1st Purebred Male 4yrs & over



Bunratty Carols Delight
1st Purebred Female 4yrs & over
Reserve Champion Adult Connemara



Sonshine Dusk
1st Partbred Female 4yrs & over
Champion Adult Connemara



Kohekohe Frosty Boy
2nd Partbred Male 4yrs & over

Windward (Ire)
Rebel Wind x Snabo Girl
1973 - 2003

(Bred by John Conneely, Rossmuck, Galway, Eire)

In our quest to acquire a well bred typical Connemara mare of sufficient quality and, hopefully, the potential to become the foundation broodmare of a stud in New Zealand, we “started at the top” and sought advice from Sarah Hodgkins of Spinway Stud. I told her which bloodlines we had at that time and she sent us the new bloodlines carried by Windward (as c.e.m. was fire in the UK at the time we could not import a pregnant mare).

Sarah warned us that Windward could be hard to catch! Before she arrived we set up a small yard for her and I spent every available minute just standing in the yard with her while she sniffed my feet, and up my back to my head and eventually discovered who I was. It was some years before I was able to catch her easily and then only with the use of carrots – chopped carrots in my right pocket and a short lead in my left pocket!

It is my habit first thing in the morning to look out the windows and see where the ponies are. On a recent morning I found one of them lying flat on her side near the house, so I trotted out to see who it was. It was Windy and she couldn't get up so I brought a bale of hay and propped it up and she immediately started to eat the hay – which seemed to me to be a good sign. However, when the vet came she didn't think there was anything to be done about her so she was put down.

All of Windy's progeny were, without exception, good, sound, typical Connemaras with super temperaments, as are the 3 yearlings by Spinway Comet.

I am grateful that she had such a brief illness and that I was able to have her buried here at home. I shall always be very grateful to Sarah Hodgkins for letting me have Windward and for the opportunity to use semen from Spinway Comet.

Winnie Tatham
Lonsdale Stud

The Blue Eyed Cream Pony Flawed or Value?

The following is extracted from an article printed in the Connemara Pony Breeders Society of Australia Inc newsletter December 2002. A full copy of the article is available if required.

The Council of the CPBS, the Irish Society shortly, is to make a decision as to whether to allow the filly progeny of Blue Eyed Cream (BEC) mares to enter the Studbook, or to retain the ban, which has been in force for many years. The reason for the banning of BEC ponies cannot be specifically detailed. It cannot be determined if it is a ban arising from a defect, or implied defect of the BEC; if there is a physical reason for the ban or if the reasons are so lost in the history of the herd that it has become a myth. If this attitude is a myth then there is a problem, which has no scientific or logical background to vindicate the ban, and therefore the ban should not exist.

The question of the defect or myth was recently put to the well known South Australian geneticist, Jeanette Gower, the following is the result of the meeting and the discussion.

It is a myth that the BEC pony is flawed or is defective and is therefore unsuitable animal with which to breed. BEC or white dogs can be deaf or blind but this is not the case with the BEC pony/horse. The Pseudo-albino horse/pony eyesight can vary from individual to individual. The eye is not pink but glass – blue coloured and is partially deficient of pigment and will absorb more light than can reasonably be expected to cope with in some instances. Sunlight may irritate the skin and cause skin cancer, again in some cases. If weathered naturally some will suntan to a pumpkin colour which gives some protection. Whether the CPBS sticks with the myth or not, the organisation must include practical reasons within its rules and regulations to demonstrate the need to include or not, this type of pony in the studbook.

If the decision is one of non-inclusion, genetics show that the BEC gene cannot be got rid of. You cannot remove this gene type unless you also remove from the studbook all other dilutes from the herd. Not only duns, but in fact all overts – palominos and buckskins and of course the grey duns. That is, all those known and those unknown would have to be tested to show their genetic background.

The carriers must be identified – such as greys, which are foaled as dilutes. When then do you stop?? Do you take out ALL carriers, not only the BEC known carriers? If you take out all carriers you cut out all greys born dilute! A quick thought on the stallion and mare lines and their significance, particularly the grey members, can see the significance of this concept.

It is imperative in the discussion of the inclusion or not of the BEC pony into the studbook that the dun must be identified as distinct from the buckskin on papers and in the stud book or else, DUN with and without the Cremello Gene. The CPBS must also identify the carriers of the gene as well, such as those greys foaled as palomino, dun or buckskin. Papers must show “Foaled as Dun/Buckskin”. It must be insisted that the foal colour AT BIRTH (not 10, 20 or 50 days later) is recorded and more particularly, photos taken so that the colour can be identified and verified. There is a genetic difference between dun and buckskin. There must be a definition of dun and buckskin in the regulations and if the continued breeding of BECs is to be curtailed, the distinction of those animals in the stud book as being Dun or Buckskin must be recorded on papers and in the stud book. By knowing what a dun is and what a buckskin is and which greys carry a dilute gene the breeding of a BEC pony can be minimised and prevented.

To ensure that we minimise the breeding of a BEC pony, we must have some basic understanding of genetics. The BEC pony is not technically defective and the reasons for non-breeding can be said to be commercially orientated not physical or breeding/type orientated.

There is a pony in the Connemara herd referred to as a DUN or DUN coloured. Dun is in fact two colours. The true dun is genetically referred to as a Dn and the other type of dun is referred to genetically as a buckskin Ccr. This major difference must be recognised and particularly so when dealing with the BEC issue in breeding. The true dun (Dn) cannot produce a BEC progeny when bred to another dun (Dn) or when bred to a whole coloured pony. The buckskin (Ccr) is a single dilute

genetic pony. When two such ponies with a single dilution gene breed (Ccr + Ccr) then the result is a double dilution genetic progeny, which is a BEC.

If the single dilute Ccr is bred to a whole colour, say a bay, this colour has no dilution gene in its make up and therefore no double dilution is made and the progeny will be 50% buckskin 50% bay.

When buckskin is bred to buckskin (the genetic type of each is Ccr Ccr) a double dilution, the progeny should be 25% base colour, say bay, 50% BEC and 25% buckskin.

Grey is not a colour but a pattern superimposed on other colours. It has been called a disease of the hair follicle or coat where the melanin (colour) lodges on one side of the hair only. Grey is the result of a dominant gene that may mask all colours. The skin of a grey is always dark.

If a buckskin Ccr is bred to a grey, the foal could be born a dun/buckskin type colour – a shade varying through the buckskin range ie. dark to very light. Because the grey is a dominant gene it will in time mask the buckskin colour at foaling and the coat will grey out. Hence the importance of recording AT BIRTH the foal colour, and better still recording that colour on film. It is this masking process which brings about the grey/dun as it is known in the CPBS herd. It is in fact a pony, which has the buckskin gene Ccr and therefore a single dilute and not the dun gene Dn.

Thus in breeding the grey/dun later to a similar genetic profile the unwitting BEC pony is bred. Why??? Because each pony has the single dilute gene Ccr in its profile and the mating produces a double dilute – the BEC! If this genetic background was recorded in the stud book or that fact that a pony was a dun or buckskin and or foaled a certain colour this could not occur.

THEREFORE

It must be recognised

1. Dun and buckskin are totally different in genetic make up.
2. A program to identify, mark and record the difference in the CPBS herd is essential to minimise the production of BEC ponies.
3. A dun/buckskin pony as now recorded in the CPBS stud book should never be bred to any other than a known homozygous grey, bay, brown or black pony.

The CPBS wishes to place on record the valuable time and effort given by Jeanette Gower in the production of this paper. The paper and a copy of Jeanettes book has been sent to Ireland for the Vice Chairman of the ICCPS, Mr Tomas MacLochlainn to present at the CPBS meeting. Jeanette gave freely of her time to present the details recorded above and then to vet, make comment and correct the paper as presented to her. In thanking Jeanette for this work the CPBSA Committee asks members to obtain a copy of the Book "Horse Colour Explained" by Jeanette to further their knowledge of this vexed subject. The chapter references in this text are to those areas in the Book "Horse Colour Explained".

Interesting Websites

www.horsetalk.co.nz/Connemara

www.britishconnemaras.co.uk

www.irishhorsesociety.com

Spinway Comet

When we attended Badminton in 1998 we were able to organise a visit to Sarah Hodgkins' Spinway Stud just over the county border from Gloucestershire into Oxfordshire. The report I wrote for the Society at the time was lost, but as we now have Spinway Comet foals on the ground here in NZ, and more frozen semen available to breeders here it is appropriate to re visit the story!



Buttermilk Farm – quite close to the charming town of Burford – was easy to find, with the farmhouse and outbuildings all matching in the traditional stone with about fifty acres of pasture. Sarah Hodgkins is a dedicated Connemara breeder with a lovely band of purebred mares. Sarah has a policy of topping up her bloodlines with older Irish mares, those who have competed under saddle and produced a foal or two. Given

the long productive life of this breed, this seems a great policy. At the time we visited, Spinway Comet was the undoubted star, having been Supreme Connemara at Ponies of Britain five times (I don't know what his current record is). A full 14.2hh grey with special presence and great movement, he had already been "spotted" by Winnie Tatham and was undergoing the rigorous tests needed to gain approval for the export of semen. American interests were also hoping to import semen at this stage. Winnie now has the wonderful result of three foals (now yearlings) which are a great addition to our bloodlines.

Anna McNaughton

Blandings Ardrahan

Hello,

I have news of this wonderful mare for you all. I am Cheryl Ellis and I have been the stud manager of Blandings Stud here in Ballarat, Victoria, Australia for the Storey's since 1996. Recently Blandings Ardrahan came to live with us for our 12yo son Lachlan to ride and to take to Pony Club. She is a real character and is in no way looking her 25 + years. "Our Maggie" is safe and fun for any rider so far and is already considered a national treasure. Our 14yo daughter Jessica has had Ardrahan's only son, Blandings Liam, for nearly three years and they compete with success in a wide range of equestrian activities including Pony Club games, eventing, breed and open show classes, jumping and dressage competitions. Liam recently won the S.V. Chandler trophy for the high-point gelding of the show at the Victorian APSB stud pony show held back in January with temperatures up to 44.6 degrees C to compete in which they did with style and success. The qualifying events he gained points in were led M&M gelding: 5th; ridden open breed gelding over 13.2hh: 1st; jumping 13.2hh to 14.2hh: 1st; Dressage over 12.2hh ridden by a child under 16yo: 3rd; and Activity Pony over 12.2hh ridden by a child under 16yo: 1st. A harness class counted

toward the final score but as Liam is not broken to that (yet !!??) he did well to get the award against all the other pony geldings. It was also the first time a Connemara has won the award so that was a big thrill for all of us. You can see their trophy picture at www.eques.com.au on the second page of the APSB Vic Stud Show report. Liam and Jess also won the Working Hunter class for Mountain & Moorland ponies where they had to do a flat and a jumping round under different judges and were the eventual champions, beating one of our New Forest ponies also ridden by Jess !! Along with minor places in the ridden and led M&M Show Hunter classes, Jess was 6th in the junior judging competition and gained a first place in the open pony jumping competition on Liam, with another first on one of our New Forest ponies in the 12.2hh to 13.2hh jumping class it was a huge day. The weather was exceptionally hot from about mid-day to just before 5pm and so the decision by the committee to suspend some classes until the change was welcome. The Sunday of the show was delightfully cool to compete in all the led classes after a good night's sleep.

Cheryl Ellis

Classifieds

- For Sale: “*Clavering Royal Guinness*”, yearling gelding (23/1/02) by Aloha Desert Prince out of Ridgeway Illusion, \$2000 – enquiries to Wendy Clark 09 473 8107
- Animal Portraits in pastel, From \$75.00 unmounted, For more information, contact Mary Kelly, 3 Hartley Avenue, Onetangi, Waiheke Island, Auckland Phone 09 372 9027
- For Sale: Two purebred rising 2 yr geldings by Glenormiston Jasper, also brown purebred filly available at weaning, enquiries to Sharyn Greer 03 689 2764
- Connemara Chronicles – These excellent annual British publications are available from Mrs E Beckett, Ullenwood Manor farm, Ullenwood, Cheltenham GL53 9QT, England.
- Good homes required for two purebred broodmares, enquiries to Wendy Clark 09 473 8107

In Conclusion

I am able to share with you first hand an excellent example of the versatility of the Connemara. Three weekends ago our American visitor rode my Connemara/thoroughbred mare in a ODE, the next weekend my husband rode the same horse for 2 chukkas of polo and last weekend I finally got to ride my horse, this time it was on the hunt field. How versatile is that! Whats more, the hunt rode out with about 30 followers, had an immediate run followed by a “kill” and of the original 30 riders there was the Huntsman, his 2 Whippers in, the Master and 4 of the field – and two of those were mounted on Connemaras!!

Enjoy your ponies.

Sharyn Greer
Editor