

The Connemara Pony Society of New Zealand Incorporated

Newsletter November 2003

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Jottings From Your President

So much has happened since I last wrote to you; I'm not sure where to start. Firstly, thank you to all of you who contributed to such a successful AGM, they say if anything is worth doing then it must have an element of fear, both Bridget and I were a little apprehensive to say the least but we did not need to be as you in the North gave us a great weekend. Special thanks to those who traveled up from the South. To those who phoned, emailed or personally told me how successful and well run the meeting and weekend went, thank you. It is not always possible to please everyone but this time we must have come close. To meet such committed Connemara people from all over NZ was well worth the trip North.

Shortly after my trip to the AGM, Wayne and I set off on our first OE, it was all planned around the events at Connemara. An invitation to the judges/inspectors clinic, being held for the first time, was high on our agenda. After almost dying from the heat on our 'Glimpse of Europe' tour (42°C at 9pm and still 38°C at 8am and no air conditioning, other than on the bus!) we arrived in Ireland. Thirty plus years of 'one day' traveling to Connemara to see where our beloved ponies originated had become a reality. We set off driving a rental car south and just kept going till we got to Scarteen, home of Thady and Anne Ryan's family. This was such an experience after reading Thady's book and hearing so much about Scarteen and the Black and Tans over the years. We were immediately made most welcome and we really slept well, the first night not in a hotel since we left home. It is not till one goes away that you really miss the things you take for granted, we had not heard a bird sing in Europe as it was so noisy with traffic etc.

The next day we followed Anne up to her eldest son John and his family's home at Kiltulla near Galway. Another wonderful place to stay, we were thoroughly spoilt. We went to Ballinasloe Connemara Show where we saw some very nice ponies in hand, ridden both saddle and side saddle. We met some people on their way to Connemara, from England, Ireland, Australia and Scotland. From there we went early to try and get to the launching of Stephanie Brooks & Karen Mannion's new book *Seahorses, Connemara and Its Ponies*, at Errislannon. Wow it was an education driving out to Errislannon from Clifton, very narrow winding roads with no room for passing, so there was lots of backing or waiting (everyone gives way, a lesson we in NZ could learn!). We missed the main event but spoke briefly with Stephanie and purchased my signed copy. It was amazing how many people had made the trip for this occasion; there were hundreds there, and also hundreds of vehicles so we would have struggled if we had been any later when everyone was going the other way! The country is so sparse, miles of stone fences and not a tree other than near buildings. The country has a beauty all of its own, breath taking especially to a country girl who has been dreaming of this for so long.

Back to Clifton, a special little town with a one-way street that takes one through the town.

The next day 22 Aug, Anne and I attended the International Meeting-ICCPS. It was a privilege to be there. When we gave our introductions I found that I was one of those who had been breeding ponies for the same period as some, and a lot longer than most. The meeting was very informative with many topics discussed; the minutes are available if anyone would wish to view them. We, the NZ Society, did not achieve approval due to not having mares inspected. The ICCPS are more than happy with all the other criteria that we have met and our inspection process for colts. Australia has an optional inspection process that has been accepted that we may be able to adopt. It was interesting to hear from all the other countries of how they are working within their societies.

Five weeks we were away and the only day we had to be outside all day was the **only** day it **rained!** Connemara Show Day, we sat on a concrete seat from 7.45am till 6.30pm in the rain, frozen, but the feast of ponies in the ring in front of us was one that Connemara pony enthusiasts can only dream of. The judges were from France, the first time judges from outside Ireland had judged here. The judging was very consistent; the exhibits of the highest standard and the crowd must have included everyone from Ireland and beyond. There were 30 entries in some classes, in particular the stallion class, so you can see how a win at Clifton can enhance your pony, their sire, dam and their stud. It was endurance itself to last the day but when you travel thousands of miles to see all these Connemara ponies in one place, judged by world-class people then you would not miss it for anything.



Clifden Show Champion Pony 2003
Glencarrig Prince S0001073
Sire: Clooisle Cashel S0000980
Dam: Glencarrig Aedin M0009008



Clifden Show Reserve Champion 2003
Castle Urchin M12417
Sire: Abbeyleix Owen S496
Dam: Castle Dane M8640

The next day was the Connemara pony sale, 250 of them in a cattle-selling venue. Listening to the auctioneer alone was fantastic, the ponies more of a working type and selling for \$3000 (NZ) plus.

Sat we attended the seminar for judges/inspectors. We learnt of the process of inspection in Ireland. A student, Deirdre, doing her thesis on the Connemara Pony, presented her findings on the breeding and the history. One of her studies included the size of the pony and how this has changed over the latter years. We were asked not to disclose her findings till later in the year following her submission of her study, at such time we will have access. It will be worth our society purchasing a copy. The afternoon was at the show grounds where ponies were presented and judges were invited to talk along with the owners of the ponies.

I came away with greater confidence that we in NZ are on the right track and personally that the 'eye' I had had for the pony was reaffirmed. It was four days that I will value always; the ponies, the people, the country and to have Wayne there to share it with me. During the introductions I told the meeting how I had set out to find a pony that would suit us here in NZ, one that had outstanding temperament, bigger than other breeds here already and would perform well out at Pony Club, hunting etc and I found the **Connemara** and they had not let me down. Today they have done so much more, they have given me a reason to go around the world and to come home with a far greater appreciation of all we have- ponies, friends, space to keep them, fresh air and birds that sing all day. We would have never achieved so much during our time in Ireland if not for Anne and her family, a huge thank you to Anne and your family for all your hospitality and for sharing a little bit of Ireland and especially Connemara with us. I hope that others from the NZ Society will venture to our ponies homeland one day also.

Following this time in Connemara I was ready to come home, I was a little homesick for both home and my ponies. However on our last day I was able to go for a ride on a lovely Irish Hunter and then I was OK! We went on a tour of England and Scotland followed by three days at Burghley Horse Trials, a fitting finish to our time away.

Taieri Hore.

From the Secretary's Office

Welcome to new members Tooki Riggs, Rosemary & Bob Weaver, Kevin Sapsworth, Micaela Lewenz, Jackie Davidson, Anna McLachlan, Jessica and Hayley James & Ruth Bookman.

<i>Fees:</i>	
Membership	\$30
Family membership	\$35
Junior membership *	\$15
Associate membership **	\$20
Life membership	\$300

*** no voting rights**

**** no voting rights, can register part-breeds,
receive all correspondence.**

Subscriptions are due on January 1 each year.

From the Registrars Desk

Registrations: Running totals to date for each Registration category are –

Purebreds	Stallions	6
	Register Stallions	3
	Mares	76
	Register Mares	4
	Foals	18 (10 fillies, 8 colts)
	Geldings	65
Partbreds	Register Gelding s	4
	Mares	169
	Mares ¼ Bred	4
	Geldings	163
Foal Registrations	Geldings ¼ Bred	2
Foal Registrations – 1 Aug 2002 – 31 Jul 2003		
Purebreds	Fillies	4
	Colts	2
Partbreds	Fillies	3
	Colts	5
Transfers		30
Registrations		17

Fees:	members	non-members
Registration in Section 4	\$10	\$20
Late Registration penalty fee	\$5	
Transfer of ownership	\$10	
Lease (long/indefinite term)	\$10	
Lease (2 years of less)	\$5	
Replacement certificate	\$10	
Application for prefix/brand	\$5	
Purebred colt Inspection fee	\$50	

Other Registration Activities: As you may already know, Massey University has stopped all blood typing and is now only doing DNA. This is a lot easier for us as it requires only hair, I have envelopes and instructions, and everyone who has a blood types purebred will be hearing from me shortly.

Matters of Concern: There are 2 matters that concern me greatly. The first is to somehow persuade owners that the registration certificate MUST be sent back to the Registrar when the pony is transferred. Otherwise the pony is LOST! The second is that it is important to advise the Registrar when a pony dies. I am fairly sure that many of the older ponies are irretrievably lost, and it is a great shame to think that some of those grand old ladies have become just “ the old grey mare who ain’t what she used to be”. For this reason I should like to strongly advocate freeze branding, which isn’t uncomfortable for the pony and can be very discreet, and it does tell us “who” and “how old”.

Conclusion: In conclusion I would like to thank all the breeders who are so good with their returns, and make life as a Registrar so much easier. Finally you will be pleased to now the Stud Book updates are ready to roll. And last of all I would like to ask if there is someone amongst you who would like to take on the Registrars job. I am happy to do it for another season but after that I would like to hand it on. At times it can get quite busy but it is tremendously rewarding, and one gets to know people from all over the country, who because they are Connemara people, are all delightful to know. *Mary Kelly (Registrar)*

*MINUTES OF THE 19th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONNEMARA PONY
SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED*

Held at Ambury Park, Auckland, 10.45am on Saturday 26th July 2003.

Present: Taieri Hore (Chair), Freda & John Harre, Susan O'Brien, Kevin Sapsworth, Val Taylor, Anna McNaughton, Tania Taylor, Sharyn & Fen Greer, Mary Kelly, Heather Ringland, Julie Barclay, John Fleet, Josh O'Leary, Sharline O'Leary, Nickie Stroud, Gloriann Mullen, Winnie Tatham, Linda Plenderleith, Michelle Gibb, Bridget Turner.

Apologies: Anne Ryan, Tony Turner, Karen Garner, Brigid Verry, Anne Lindesay, Wendy Clark, Tom McNamara. *Heather Ringland/ Julie Barclay.*

Minutes: The Minutes of the previous AGM were read and confirmed. *Heather Ringland/ Taieri Hore.*

President's Report: Taieri Hore read her report and moved that it be adopted. *Seconded Heather Ringland.*

Registrar's Report: Mary Kelly read her report & moved that it be adopted. *Seconded John Fleet.* Anna McNaughton gave a vote of thanks to Mary.

Performance Competition Report: The Convenor, Taieri Hore read her report and asked that it be adopted. *Seconded Heather Ringland.*

Area Reports: John Fleet told the meeting that there were eight Connemaras who attended the NIABIH show held in January 2003 competing in Pony, Sport horse & Irish Hunter, Show Pony, Breed & Best Presented classes.

Anna McNaughton thanked John Fleet for all the work he did organizing a Connemara Ribbon day in February 2003. Thirty ponies attended with Alan Dobson as Guest judge. Report in Newsletter. Anna thanked Sharyn & Fen Greer for judging some classes at short notice.

Sharyn told the meeting that there were Connemara classes at the North Otago A&P Show and at an All Breeds Show she & Taieri organized.

Heather Ringland spoke about classes for RAS shows & asked that her format be taken to Committee for approval. *Taieri Hore/Anna McNaughton.*

Treasurer's Report: Bridget Turner presented her report noting that she had taken over the books half way through the 2002 financial year and had continued with that format. John Fleet queried, whether the Newsletter expenses were higher, due to the loss of sponsorship we used to receive from Wrightsons in Waihi, this was confirmed. Our present Editor Sharyn Greer explained she had approached their stock firm for sponsorship but was refused. Treasurer moved that her report be adopted, *Seconded John Fleet.*

Ratification of Officers: The nominations of Taieri Hore as President, Bridget Turner as Secretary, Anne Ryan, Mary Kelly, Sharyn Greer & Anna McNaughton as Committee were ratified. *John Fleet/ Heather Ringland.*

The meeting adjourned for an interesting talk by Debbie Freeman on Ambury Park, its history, its association with Connemara ponies through the gifting, by Sir John & Lady Marshall of their Canningvale stud ponies, and its purpose today, focusing on the Riding Therapy Centre & RDA. Staff displayed four of the resident working Connemaras. We also saw Carol's Delight handled by Josh O'Leary who John Fleet had kindly brought along especially for the meeting.

This was followed by lunch generously donated by Tom Gore & presented by Anna McNaughton, Sharline O'Leary & team.

General Business: On behalf of Anne Lindesay, Anna McNaughton presented a flier on *Dark Stranger*, a Connemara stallion that Anne would like to use for AI .Any interested breeders to contact Anne. The Secretary has a copy of the flier.

The meeting was shown a video, made in Eire for the ICCPS, on desirable Connemara type, action & conformation. (As mentioned in the President's report Taieri Hore & Anne Ryan will be

attending an ICCPS Inspectors clinic when in Eire for the Clifden show. They will also attend the ICCPS AGM as N.Z's delegates.) Heather Ringland suggested that the first three Inspectors to qualify as ICCPS Inspectors be listed as RAS Connemara class judges in NZ.

Taieri showed the meeting a flier she plans to give out when overseas.

It was suggested that Inspections be held every year at designated places providing all criteria is met prior to Inspection for entry into the Studbook. There was some discussion with regards to costs incurred for Inspections; most people agreed that Inspectors should not be liable for the costs.

Fees: Stay the same. *John Fleet/ Susan O'Brien.*

Anna McNaughton said Hans Notter was a Life Member and had not been receiving Society mail. It was confirmed his name was not on the mailing list.

It was agreed to send a letter of thanks and a donation of \$50 to the Ambury Centre for Riding Therapy.

There was a general agreement that quality photos should be sent for the Studbook and all photos approved by the Committee, before printing.

The Meeting closed at 2.45pm.

Performance Competition Results

Errislannon Trophy – Awarded for the most points

1 st	Bunratty Court Jester	Owner Sue Anderson, Rider Nicola Batchelor
2 nd	Timaunga Bobby Dazzler	Owner Raywyn Jones, Rider Samantha Jones
3 rd	Timaunga Erinmist	Owner/Rider Anna McLachlan
4 th	Timaunga Skylark	Owner Timaunga Stud, Rider Lisa Wright
5 th	Tallyho Madagasca	Owner Tallyho Stud, Rider Kirstin Beaven
6 th	Ridgeway Vision	Owner/Rider Saunders Family

Blandings Trophy – Awarded for most points for a Purebred

Bunratty Court Jester Owner Sue Anderson, Rider Nicola Batchelor

Ridgeway Trophy – Awarded to the breeder of Blandings Trophy winner

Bunratty Stud

Rosettes kindly donated to 6th place by Anne Ryan of Scarteen Connemara Stud, Temuka.

Congratulations to all the place getters and thank you to all those who entered the competition. This is a free competition so please do access an entry form, all outings to any event qualify.

Taleri Hore

Stallion Profile – Waterfall Dan



August 31 2003, Stallion Parade - Karaka, South Auckland

Woke up to an amazingly fine day after weeks of rain.

Dan must have known today was important as he was still the same glistening white pony we had put to bed the previous night.

Today it was Dans turn to promote the Connemara Pony breed in Auckland and find some girlfriends for the coming breeding season.

He did an impeccable job, didn't put a foot wrong all day, (not that we expected anything less because he is an absolute gentleman).

He had constant visitors to his stable all day, one being Joan Gilchrist (previous editor of Horse and Pony magazine commenting that she had finally found a REAL horse, many people not realising there was even Connemara's in Auckland. When it came to his turn to parade, 25 horses had been before him and most were very impressive warmbloods, all over 16.1hh, Dan didn't let this put him off and proudly marched around the out door collecting ring where everyone thought his was gorgeous; we then preceded into the indoor ring where the whole ring is surrounded by seating filled by spectators that look down onto the ring and a commentator above - this was Kevin Chommondely -Smith who did an excellent job talking about the fine attributes and characteristics of the Connemara breed. Dan was unfazed by any of this and enjoyed every minute of it; in his eyes these people had all come to see him. The Stallion Parade was run extremely professionally.

Dan now has confirmed bookings for this breeding season and many others very interested.

Hope everyone has a great start to the coming season and some fine weather must be on its way soon.

Tania Taylor

Inspectors

The CPSNZ Inc Committee is inviting applications from anyone interested in joining the Inspectors panel. Those applying should send a resume outlining their experience and reason for applying to the Secretary. Some experience in judging would be an advantage. You will also need a good knowledge of the CPSNZ Constitution, have knowledge of the Connemara pony type and follow the rules of the Studbook. The position will require some travel which will be paid for by the CPSNZ, but accommodation while away would be at your own cost. Our present Inspectors are Susan O'Brien, Freda Harre, Mary Kelly, Heather Ringland, Anne Ryan, Ann Crump & Taieri Hore. These Inspectors will also be approached for their consent to be listed with the RAS as Judges.

Upcoming Pony Inspections

The next proposed date for Inspections of ponies is February 2004. There will be an inspection venue in the North Island and one in the South Island, depending on the number of and location of the applicants. Please send notification in writing of any ponies that you wish to present for inspection to the Registrar by the 15th December 2003.

Interesting Websites

www.horsetalk.co.nz/connemara
www.tallyhoconnemaras.co.nz

Classifieds

- ❑ If you wish to purchase a copy of the book *Seahorses – Connemara and its Ponies* by Stephanie Brooks with Karen Mannion, the request and payment should go to Meredith Praed, Errislannan Manor, Clifden, Co. Galway, Ireland with a money order for Euro28 plus p&p.
- ❑ North Island All Breeds In Hand Horse Show, at Waikato Events Centre (Claudelands Showgrounds) on 3rd & 4th January 2004. Includes In Hand classes for Connemaras. Entries close Friday 5th December 2003 to P O Box 4034, Hamilton or contact the Secretary, Jim Keyte ph 07 855 4776, fax 07 855 4796 or email keytejb@xtra.co.nz

In Conclusion

I too would like to thank everyone who helped make the AGM such a success. Fen and I were lucky enough to have met a lot of people on a previous trip North and it was wonderful to be able to renew these acquaintances. Auckland is definitely a lovely city (on a sunny day!).

If any of you have any photos of foundation ponies either imported or bred 1970 – 1990, the Society would be very grateful if you could send them to me, with a SAE for their return, so they can be copied and included on our Society website.

I will try to have another Newsletter out in the early New Year, so if anyone has any articles they wish to contribute, please email them to me at fj.sim.greer@paradise.net.nz or send by post.

We already have 3 foals on the ground by our stallion, Glenormiston Jasper, one being a spectacular colt out of a part Trakehner mare by Loewenherz, whom we expect to mature well over 16hh, also a lovely leggy black (and not going to go grey!) colt out of my thoroughbred mare, & a stunning purebred filly out of Galway Jeanette. We are still waiting for 1 more partbred & 1 purebred foal. Will keep you posted!

Sharyn Greer (Editor)