

The Connemara Pony Society of New Zealand Incorporated

Newsletter August 2004

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Greetings to you all! As I begin to compile this Newsletter, the weather outside is dismally bleak, there were snow flurries this morning, and all my hairy wee ponies are giving me very accusing looks as if it is all my fault that they have mud to their knees at the present. However, on the bright side, spring is just around the corner. Plenty of time then to ride ponies and enjoy the eagerly awaited foals. The Society held its 20th Annual General Meeting in Christchurch at the end of July, and this Newsletter has reprints of various Reports from that meeting. You will notice a few changes on the Committee as well. Please remember to submit any interesting articles, news, stories or competition results to me when ever they come to hand so I can use them in a future newsletter.

Sharyn Greer (Editor)

THE 20th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CONNEMARA PONY SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

Held at Yaldhurst Hall, Christchurch, 1pm Saturday 24th July 2004.

Present: Taieri Hore (Chair), Tony, Bridget & Phoebe Turner, Anne & Thady Ryan, Gloriann, Courtney & Michaela Mullen, Fen & Sharyn Greer, Virginia, Sinead & Paddy Saunders, Joanne & Courtney McGregor, Heather & Michael Ringland, Wayne Hore.

Apologies: Mary Kelly, Rosemary Weaver, Tania Taylor, Julie Barclay, Ann Crump, Val Taylor, Penny Mahy, Lee Warren.

Committee Members 2004

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President's Report

There is so much that goes on behind the scenes of even a small Society like ours that it is difficult to put it all in one report. Our Society is now a member of the RAS. We have classes in another of our large NZ shows – the Canterbury A & P Show. We have classes in the Royal Show, this year being held in Invercargill. And thanks to Heather Ringland for her sterling work here in Canterbury, we have also been allocated classes at the Canterbury Horse and Pony Breeders Show. I trust that those who are able to support these shows will make every effort. In the North there is still support for classes, we in the South enjoy the results and give you credit for your interest in the Connemara pony.

It is always difficult to try and bring to all members what they expect and want from the Society when distance is such an obstacle. A Society is only as good as the input and enthusiasm from its members. Please everyone try to contact those near to you to keep the Society viable, to get information for the newsletter and entries for the Performance Competition.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we were the size of Ireland and we could visit all the events we dream and read about? Ireland is about the size of Canterbury and the traveling time minimal compared to what we have to do in order to compete or visit studs. There is however a huge difference in that our roads are like highways compared with those in Connemara! Please everyone try to contact those near to you to keep the interest alive. It is sad to view the records and note there were only 3 (Purebred) foals registered in the past season. We are desperate for new bloodlines and hopefully Spinway Comets sons will be used soon.

The Feely report, which we were privileged to have presented at the 2003 ICCPS AGM by Deirdre Feely, is now available. I urge you all to view it. There is real concern that this native pony will become "lost" in its true identity like other native ponies throughout the world. It is not too late to preserve this truly remarkable pony. I believe we have some excellent ponies here that represent the breed in its truest form. Height is an issue throughout the world as the pony has grown some 8cm in less than 30 years, likewise the loss of bone.

John Tennant has kindly offered to be our delegate at the 2004 ICCPS AGM; I thank him on your behalf.

Should any of you ever get a chance to go to Ireland, do go when this meeting, seminars and show is on. There is so much to learn and the more ponies one sees the better one's eye becomes and what better place than the home of this amazing pony which has brought us here today (to the AGM) and the pony that we know has the most amazing attributes to be the best for any activity.

Sharyn Greer and her Tallyho ponies is one of many in New Zealand that are out there doing things, from hunting to polo, pony club to showing, trekking to endurance and so much more. It will be our loss here in South Canterbury/North Otago and Canterbury's gain as she and Fen move North in the Spring. I would like at this time to thank the committee and you especially give to the Society.

A huge thank you also to Bridget, our Secretary and Treasurer. You certainly keep things in order and do not leave any stone unturned. You are just superb, you make it so easy for me, and I thank you again.

Thank you Mary; it seems so little in words. I do not think that many of you will be aware of the work Mary has done on our behalf. There are many ponies out there that if they could talk would be sending huge messages of thanks. Many would have been lost forever to the breed and to the Society; we shall always be in debt to you Mary. Along with all your work "saving" and "placing" ponies you have been the Society's Registrar, you have completed the 2nd volume of the Stud Book and the Updates since then and just to fill in those other spare moments you have left over from walking the dogs, DC at PC and instructing, you take a paper in Latin! (All this from quote "a little old granny!". With your enthusiasm, your energy, your

love of the Connemara pony and your wisdom we are so fortunate to have had you on our committee. Thank you again for your work as Registrar these past years and I welcome rosemary to the position now.

Thank you Sharyn for the newsletters. Not always an easy task when so little is sent in.

In conclusion, I wish you all a very happy Connemara Pony year, every success in whatever field you and your pony are active in, and that you will all go forth and spread the word about this very special pony.

Taieri Hore

Canterbury Area Report

Special thanks to the Canterbury Riding Club who had 3 Connemara classes included in their show scheduled on Saturday 1st December 2003. The classes were Stallion or Gelding Any Age; Mare or Filly Any Age; Youngstock 3yrs and Under. The Champion was Purebred Stallion Ridgeway Stonelea who was very quiet and there were favourable comments made about the children being able to handle him. The Reserve Champion was partbred mare Aquila Tara who was shown with foal at foot.

The classes for the 2004 Canterbury A & P Show in November will be as follows – Best Presented Connemara & Handler; Adult Connemara 3 yrs and Over; 2 Yr Old Colt, Filly or Gelding; 1 Yr Old Colt, Filly or Gelding; Broodmare In Foal or With Foal at Foot; Championship.

The classes for the 2005 Breeders Show in February will be as follows – Best Turned Out Connemara & Handler; Registered Connemara Stallion or Colt (excluding foals) Any Age; Registered Connemara Mare or Filly (excluding foals) Any Age; Champion & Reserve; Best handler over all classes.

Heather Ringland

North Otago/South Canterbury Area Report

Over the last year there have been a pleasing number of Connemara ponies out and about doing good things for the breed at local pony club shows, secondary school team events, one day events, on the hunting field and in the show ring. We can only hope that this trend continues and that by word of mouth people come to realize what these ponies are and how to come by them. It is very rewarding as a breeder to be able to watch your ponies performing well and behaving themselves in company.

Our Tallyho stud bred 5 foals for the 2003 season, including a purebred filly and a purebred colt that at this stage we plan to run on, all by Glenormiston Jasper. We are expecting another 3 foals this season, 2 of which are purebreds. Jasper also served another 2 purebred mares for Taieri that we hope will produce foals as well.

We presently have 11 pure or part bred Connemaras at home that are regularly being ridden and taken out, & are breaking in another five 3 year olds. They aren't going to flood the market but with luck if they end up in the right hands they will go forth and promote Connemaras for us all.

Sharyn Greer

Show Results

Inhand Championship Winner at the Royal Easter Show in Auckland March 2004 was Danesmead Caracciola, owned by Val Taylor. Her mare Martray Rhainnan was 2nd in the Mare In hand class, which was won by Bunratty Carols Delight.

Profile: Our New Registrar, Rosemary Weaver

As I have yet to have the pleasure of meeting most of you I thought that it would be a good idea if I gave you a short history of myself so that you know where the new registrar is coming from.

I first came out to New Zealand in the 1960s but had very little connection with horses or ponies at that time although I had ridden since I was a child. I returned to the UK in the 1980s & was able to have more involvement in the Horse world back then as Bob (my husband) & I had a business that took us to all the major Horse & agricultural shows around the country.

We eventually emigrated out here in 1998 & at long last I was actually able to have some ponies of my own. We then lived at Paraparaumu where we had bought a lifestyle block & I had my first Welsh pony. The numbers gradually increased (as they do) until I had 6 of them. At that stage we moved out to a small farm near Hunterville where the numbers could really increase. Needless to say that at that time I was well into the Welshie world with showing & breeding them but I found that more & more people were breeding & that the "old type" of stocky little Welshie was gradually disappearing & they were becoming more like English riding ponies. This made me start to look at other breeds that had similar characteristics but a bit more to offer by way of size & ability. I had known Connemaras back in the UK so I had a good idea what I would be getting into. After a good bit of research I contacted Sharyn Greer & many emails were exchanged before I decided to buy Tallyho Mistletoe (partbred) & Tallyho Violet who is a purebred.

They arrived at our place last August & boy was Violet a handful but both she & I persevered & now we have a really good relationship. Mistletoe was always the easier one but they have both taught me a lot & I love them both to bits.

It was while talking to Mary Kelly one day that I heard that she wanted to give up being the registrar & like the idiot I am I gaily said that I would like to do it!!!!!!! Sufficed to say that having found a willing victim the society was only too pleased to let me do the job so please if when you write to me I am a little slow in doing things please bear with me as I work as a Real Estate agent for Wrightons in Levin, I have currently got nine ponies to look after (although I am cutting down my Welshies) plus the Texel & Dorper sheep & the Dexter cattle & last but not least poor long suffering Bob who can only see beauty in his cattle!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I hope over the next few months to get to meet some of you & of course if you just want to phone & talk "ponies" I am only too willing to listen as I realize that I have a lot to learn about this delightful breed

Rosemary Weaver

Stallion Inspection

Congratulations to Paul and Gloriann Mullen of Wembley Brook Stud, Irwell, Canterbury who stand ***Bunratty Kerry Gold***. Kerry Gold has passed his Stallion Inspection and is now a Studbook Stallion in the CPSNZ Studbook.

Performance Competition 2003/2004

Please return all cards to Taieri Hore before 10th September 2004. The deadline has been extended so all entries can be included in the results.

Connemara Ponies at Massey University

As many of you will be aware, Massey University is the home of New Zealand's only Vet School, where each year some 90 new students begin their 5 years of training to gain a degree in Veterinary Science. Some of you may also be aware that Massey also has a lengthy connection with the Connemara Pony.

Massey University keeps a stallion in order to show Veterinary Science and Equine Studies student's aspects of equine reproduction. Each year we do a number of demonstrations of semen collection and breeding soundness examinations, mostly for students but occasionally for outside groups as well. The Connemara is the ideal breed for this – they are easy care, easy to manage, and a good size to handle. For many students this is their first experience with a stallion and the breeding process, and it is imperative that we keep both staff and students safe at all times.

Massey's association with the Connemara pony began in 1996, with the generous donation of 'Lonsdale Moonwind' (Rebel) by his breeder, Winnie Tatham. Rebel has been the King-of-the-Hill at the Large Animal Teaching Unit for the last 8 years, and though in this time he has produced a few foals, his fertility has been gradually declining for a number of years. His subfertility was not a problem for teaching demonstrations (in fact it was quite useful to show students the 'abnormal' side of things), but last summer his libido also went into decline. Rebel is still in good health for 23, and a thorough veterinary exam failed to find any significant problems, however, he has been diagnosed with testicular degeneration (a problem common in older stallions) and it is extremely unlikely that he will breed again.

We had been aware for some time that we should be considering a replacement for him due to his advancing age. Because of this, in the season of 2002/2003, two mares were run with him in the hope of producing a replacement colt. Neither of the mares conceived over the summer, and when Rebel then lost his 'enthusiasm' for the job we were sure we had left our plans too late. It was much to our surprise and delight that we later discovered both mares in foal. We now have two delightful, albeit very out of season, foals (born in March and April). Of course, both are fillies.

As we now needed a replacement sooner than we'd hoped, we went on an expedition north. A long weekend on the road meant we saw some lovely ponies, and we are indebted for the hospitality extended by Winnie Tatham, Sue McGrath, Tricia Thompson, and Karen Garner (for the latter two, ours was rather a surprise visit!).

We are delighted and extremely grateful to Karen Garner for agreeing to sell us 'Sun 'n Air of Summer Valley' (Dover). Dover is an absolute delight to handle, and is a very kind and gentle pony. He has spent a couple of months getting used to the cold and the wet of the Manawatu, and seems to enjoy his new position on the hill where he can see some of the 30-odd mares on the property. We are now in the process of training him for semen collection for student demonstrations, and Dover is taking it all in his stride. He, like Rebel in the past, will stand to a limited number of mares, and if there is any interest we may be able to supply cooled semen for AI of mares in New Zealand. Dover has matured considerably since his photo in the studbook; hopefully we will get some decent pictures of him this summer.



Dover April 2004

Rebel is happily grazing on the hills, looking like an old pony gelding. He has a fine view of his last foals, and still occasionally shows us that he hasn't completely forgotten he's a stallion. Brent and Sue McGrath will have Bunratty Bridgette returned later this year not in foal to Rebel, but hopefully in foal to Dover.

We at Massey owe a huge thank-you to a number of members:

First to Winnie Tatham for starting it all with Rebel, and selling so many of us on the value of the Connemara. If it was her intention to raise the profile of the Connemara by exposing a large number of people to it, then Winnie has certainly achieved her goal.

To Sue and Brent McGrath for the use of 'Bunratty Bridgette' in our attempts to breed a replacement stallion. We hope she produces a lovely foal for you next year.

And last, but not least, to Karen Garner for producing such a beautiful, easy to handle stallion, and then for agreeing to part with him.

If any of you are passing through Palmerston North, and would like to visit Dover, please contact us – we are only too happy to take time out to talk ponies!

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P.S. There are a few photos of Dover and Rebel on my personal website – not professional, and not linked to Massey:

<http://www.geocities.com/hairypony>

Pony Profile: Ryan of Takou Bay

Hi, my name is Neesha. I'm 14yrs old and now own Ryan of Takou Bay. We purchased Ryan from Whangamata for my younger novice sister Tegan. We brought him with an umbilical hernia about the size of a golf ball, and a split lower lip. We considered operating on the hernia, but decided to wait to see if it would go away on its own (we weren't very confident!)

After a half a winter of schooling him, we thought we might see how he went at a gymkhana. He went well and we got some small placings.

After a few ups and downs during that winter and some of the summer, we had Ryan looking really good (apart from the unsightly hernia). We decided to enter the saddle hunter ring. This was where Ryan belonged!! He took his first placings with pride as he extended his canter boldly around the ring. He won both the novice and open saddle hunter classes out of about 13 contenders. With comments from almost everyone who was watching! We also started some small show jumping rounds that season. No stops, he just made his way nicely around the 60cm circuit.

Well that was all last season, and now it's our winter again!! Recently I took him to his first RTR day. It took a couple of attempts to get him over the white hurdles, and the rustic wire, but he was really brave and went over them confidently in the end. No problems with the brush jumps!!

So there is Ryan's life so far. I love him to bits. We won't be doing RTR anymore but will concentrate on hunting & show hunter classes!!

PS. We would have operated on his hernia but it disappeared!

Neesha



Ryan of Takou Bay

Classifieds

For Sale: Ridgeway Jaxon DOB 10/10/01. Sire Bunratty Kerry Gold, Dam Ridgeway Jewel. Grey gelding, 13.2hh. Backed & going kindly. Ph Cynthia Muir 03 304 8407