



The  
**Connemara Pony Society**  
of New Zealand

Incorporated



Glenardon Inishmore (Glenormiston Jasper) Champion Partbred Connemara and  
Supreme Connemara Exhibit, NZ Royal Show Christchurch November 2007



Timaunga Skylark (Ganty Champ x Canningvale Bonnie Sue)  
Champion Purebred Connemara, NZ Royal Show Christchurch  
November 2007

## FROM THE HOT SEAT, JANUARY 2008

The Committee and I would like to wish you all a happy New Year. I'm not sure where the time has gone but am painfully aware that it is a long time since our last Newsletter. Those of you involved in past committees and Newsletters will understand the difficulties in sourcing and receiving relevant material then putting it all together by a certain time. Not an excuse but an apology and a thank you for your patience.

I won't bore you with another rewrite of the exciting visit to New Zealand of Tomas MacLochlainn, President of the CPBS, it was enjoyed by a large number of members and others interested people, Tom freely passed on his knowledge and enthusiasm of Connemara and the Connemara Pony to us all. He is formulating the idea of hosting 3 young Aussies and 3 Kiwis at the Autumn Clifden show (August) with the idea of, as they now say, 'immersing' them in Connemara's and Connemara for the week. At my age young means those around 30. This sounds like an ideal opportunity for us. For our ponies and the society to gain the most benefit this 'offer' would be best suited to members who are Inspectors, breeders, riders and owners. Naturally the society cannot put any money towards their fares. It may be difficult to find 3 young people in a position to go at one time however the committee would be interested to hear of any members who think they could go. Please contact me or another committee member for a confidential talk on possibilities. Should his proposal come to fruition, the Committee, probably in discussion with Tom, would have the unenviable task of 'selecting' if needed.

Other Connemara visitors, Niamh and Eoin O'Dochartaigh took a brief trip south while visiting family in Auckland, they were great value and Niamh had a huge selection of Connemara Pony pictures and a corresponding memory of their names and breeding. Niamh has written several books on Connemara ponies and people. They made a fast visit to the south of the South Island staying with members as they went and were very impressed by the Kiwi hospitality, lord knows how they fitted it all in.

The breeding season is nearly over with possibly some late foals to come. From the foal registrations, it is good to see the recently imported stallion Capparis Casanova has been used. The other import Glenormiston Rowan, is unfortunate not to be so centrally located but hopefully he will attract some mares as word gets about. There will be a Registrar's Report with the registrations and transfers in this Newsletter.

We have a nice colt by Keltic O' Se out of Knockrah Moonshadow and have put Timaunga Tara back to Casanova again as her 11 month filly by him is developing nicely. Tom has reiterated the need for careful selection when breeding. New blood would be advantageous, however until such time, we have to work with what is available; with care we can spread our genes more effectively through sire choice. I know that given the size of NZ and other constraints 'best choice' is not often practicable.

The Stud Book, Volume 2 is now closed. A copy of it will be sent to the Alexander Turnbull library where it will join Volume 1. The law requires this of such a publication. In the meantime the committee/Registrar is going to send annual copies of registrations, Imports etc to the breeders to authenticate the accuracy of the records and then after a few years publish Volume 3 as a bound copy.

The CPSNZ Inc. has signed an agreement, to be reviewed annually, with Dr Jennifer Cahill of the Equine Parentage & Animal Genetics Services Centre based at Massey. The fee for DNA is \$80 for members, \$110 for others. Payment to be sent to the Registrar with your application for a sample envelope.

The 2007 Springston Trophy was held in Central Otago and as is becoming the norm, quite a number of Connemara's competed. See the report in this issue.

Equine Influenza, we have all heard of the outbreak in Australia and its effects, both there and here. The Equine Health Association, EHA, is trying to work with the MAF, Vets and the racing industry on this threat to NZ. The EHA aim to represent all equines in NZ and so sent notification to the CPSNZ and other breed societies. They advocate preventative measures but also have asked that we back their application to ERMA to import a vaccine to combat this. The CPSNZ Committee does not believe that without an extra -ordinary meeting it has any mandate to act on members' behalf on such an issue. The proposed 'vaccine' will not protect the horse from the disease though it may reduce the symptoms and it could also facilitate its spread. It is possible it would cost around \$300. Knowing this and the fact that not that many

horses in Australia actually died from EI, also a reply to the import application was required within a week of the notification email, we could do little else other than say that we could not back it. Let us hope that it does not arrive, on a more positive note I see some of Queensland is allowing recreational equine events again.

Meetings. I think this is one of the widest spread committees we have had. As a result we are now having email meetings. This is a learning curve for most of us. I am probably the slowest on the keyboard and slowly learning to be 'net savvy'. While this system does involve all the Committee it means that we have a meeting running for a week or so. I think we are getting better at it but I must add it is not as easy or enjoyable as a real face to face one. However we do seem to receive more requests as emails. They, the computer requests always seem to desire an immediate answer, this can be time consuming. However it seems to be par for the course these 'electronic' days. Bring back letters! We do forward emails of interest to members who have an email address. If any members have changed email address or just signed up please send the information to our Secretary Fiona Comer (comer@woosh.co.nz) so she can update her addresses.

There has been some good results in the horse papers of many Connemara's performing well, pure and part- bred - jockeys, handlers and breeders keep up the good work. Liz would love to hear from anyone with stories and photographs about your Connemara to include in the Newsletters. I wish you and your animal's good health and a very successful and enjoyable 2008 and look forward to hearing your stories.

Tony Turner

## **committee profiles**

### **Fiona Comer (Secretary/Treasurer)**

My first pony was a 2yo recently broken in black Shetland cross called Mittens. I was 6. My father thought that if we mastered him it might be worth getting another pony later on. Mittens knew how to buck, how to remove riders by walking under trees, how to evade capture... Eventually he was tamed, enjoyed and grown out of. More ponies followed. Competitively I showjumped a pony to what was "A grade" and did pony club eventing, just missing out on a trip to the PC Champs in Hamilton in 1976.

University meant no horses or ponies and I had a couple of hacks which I rode for pleasure until 1999. Then I purchased 2yo Taihoa Cloudy from Mandy Platt and Rob Stanley at Hurunui Horsetreks. Right from her early days Cloudy has been used as a lead rein pony for my children and their friends. I ride her for pleasure when time permits - knowing that I can climb on safely after months.

Outside of the horse world, I achieved a B. Agric. Sci which lead to work as a farm adviser, animal husbandry specialist, consultant and quality manager. I am now on my third school Board of Trustees - a primary, an intermediate and now James Hargest College in Invercargill. For much of my time on the primary and intermediate boards I was chairperson.

### **Sheila Ramsay (Committee)**

I have been around horses and ponies all my life and have worked extensively with them in a professional capacity over many years. My first breeding experience was in my teens with Welsh Arab crosses. The first Connemara I bred was Kohatu Erin, a part bred by Barwidgee Erriff. I was the Secretary for the CPSNZ in the early nineties and was instrumental in the passing of the postal voting system, compulsory branding of purebred ponies and the start of voluntary bloodtyping in 1993. Had a break from things Connemara from the mid 90's until 2002 because of personal family reasons. In 2005, was instrumental in the importation of the mare Biwmares Madonna and the stallion Capparis Casanova.

I have two Connemara ponies in my personal care, one of whom (Bunratty Bridgette) I ride, and a two year old filly from Bimares Madonna (Kohatu Dark Isle by Newlands Gideon). I was fortunate to be able to attend the Colt and Stallion inspections in Connemara in 2006, which I found very educational. I was also able to see a large number of Connemara ponies in Scotland and Yorkshire.

### **FROM THE EDITORS DESK**

My apologies for what has essentially become a combined newsletter – I hope that all of you with children, more than full time work, and too many ponies, will have some understanding of the situation... Those who have been editors in the past will also understand that you're always waiting on one last item – no matter how long you wait, or how much material you have, there will always be something to go in at the last minute. I'm not sure if it's a good thing or a bad thing, but the result of this is that there is rather a lot of 'heavy duty' reading in this edition.

Hopefully some of you will find it food for thought.

Due to various 'technical difficulties', I have lost my list of people who would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically (thereby saving trees, postage, and getting the pictures in their full coloured glory). Please drop me a quick email if you'd like to get this in your inbox instead of your letterbox.

Liz

### **THE ROYAL SHOW 2007**

The Connemara Pony Classes at the Royal New Zealand Show were held at Christchurch on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, under the Australian judge Carol Lindeman.

The weather was absolutely atrocious, with rain, hail and a cold, gale force wind; a very unusual event for Canterbury's Carnival Week. The entries were, sadly much smaller than those of last year. The weather kept some of the exhibitors at home (very sensibly in my opinion) reducing the competition even further. Interestingly however, the three purebred entries who did present to the judge were all ponies which have not appeared previously at The Show.

Champion Purebred Connemara Pony: Timaunga Skylark (Ganty Champ – Canningvale Bonnie Sue).  
Reserve Champion Purebred Connemara Pony: Escondido Ridgeway Ebony Gold (Bunratty Kerry Gold – Ridgeway Jewel). Runner up to Ebony Gold was Tallyho Tulip.

There was only one partbred presented to the judge; Glenardon Inishmore and was awarded the Champion Part bred Connemara. Inishmore also won the Best Presented Exhibit and went onto be awarded the Supreme Connemara Award. Inishmore was also the winner of the Supreme award in 2006.

Sheila Ramsay

### **ELDERSLIE-GOTARA PONY CLUB MINI SHOW - NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> 2007**



Left: Champion Park Hack, Glenardon Kintire, Rider: Katie Drummond. Owner: Rebecca Drummond.

Sire: Young Runaway (TB) Dam: Ridgeway Kilkelly (By Lonesdale Moonwind, out of State of Kings TB Mare). Dam was winner of the performance trophy for 4 consecutive years, also a multi champ on flat and side-saddle and great all-rounder with competing in eventing, show jumping, trail rides and treks. Kintire (Rheba as she is known) is Kelly's first foal. This was her very first show under saddle.



Right: Reserve Champion Park Hack, Glenardon Innishmoore. Rider/Owner: Susan Falconer. Sire: Glenormiston Jasper (IMP). Dam: Priscilla (Cleveland bay x Mare). Supreme Champion Connemara 2006 & 2007 at Christchurch Royal Show and Reserve Champion Novice Cob 2006 & 2007 at Christchurch Royal Show.

### **RESULTS CPSNZ INC. PERFORMANCE COMPETITION 1/06/2006- 31/05/07**

#### **ERRISLANNAN PERPETUAL TROPHY (*most points Pure & Partbred*)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Timaunga Foxrock PM74	1627
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ridgeway Kilmaddee PM156	952
3 <sup>rd</sup> Scarlet of Ridgeway RM153	856

#### **BLANDINGS CONNEMARA STUD PERPETUAL TROPHY (*most points Purebred*)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Ridgeway Vision M13	430
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ridgeway Derry G78	182

#### **WATERFALL ENNISKILLEN MEMORIAL PERPETUAL TROPHY (*awarded for most pony club rallies*)**

1 <sup>st</sup> Scarlet of Ridgeway RM153	24
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ridgeway Derry G78	15
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sea Hill Padre PG124	9

#### **RIDGEWAY STUD PERPETUAL TROPHY (*Breeder of winner of Blandings Trophy*)**

Ridgeway Stud

#### **SCARTEEN PERPETUAL TROPHY (*Breeder of winner of Errislannan Trophy*)**

Timaunga Stud

### **DNA AND COLOURTESTING**

As already mentioned, the CPSNZ has signed an agreement with Massey University's Equine Parentage and Animal Genetic Services Centre, which means that we now deal directly with them instead of having our DNA testing billed through NZ Thoroughbred Racing. This now means that the cost DNA parentage verification has been reduced to \$80 per sample. Please note this fee now needs to be pre-paid to the CPSNZ, and the Registrar will send out an approved sample envelope once payment has been received.

Massey University's Equine Parentage and Animal Genetic Services Centre now also offer a colour testing service. Each test costs \$35, and available tests include those for determining the 'base colour' of your pony - the extension/red locus (sometimes called chestnut-alleles), and the agouti/black locus-alleles (bay/black). Possibly of more interest to Connemara breeders with grey ponies is the test for the Crème gene responsible for producing palomino's, buckskins, and blue-eyed-creams. Other available tests include those for tobiano, and lethal overo. Further details (including fact sheets and submission forms) are available from the editor, or from Jenny Cahill at EPAGSC, Massey University.

## ***EQUINE DNA TESTING FOR BREED REGISTRIES***

The use of DNA technology is something most of us are familiar with – mostly thanks to its uses in human forensics. But its applications in the equine world, including DNA profiling for identification and parentage, screening tests for coat colour and some inherited diseases, are growing all the time. Of particular importance to all equine breed registries, regardless of size, is the production of DNA genotypes or profiles for individual horses, and the use of these profiles in verifying parentage of foals before registration.

Here are some basic genetic concepts to help you understand the following information on DNA genotyping.

**Chromosomes** – long double stranded molecules of DNA, present in the nucleus of every cell in the body, containing all of the information of inheritance. Chromosomes come in pairs –one from each parent.

**DNA** (deoxyribonucleic acid) – molecules made up of millions of the four basic repeating units (nucleotides or bases); A (adenine), T (thymine), G (guanine) and C (cytosine). Only 10% of DNA sequence codes for genes – the function of the 90% of noncoding DNA is unknown.

**Genes** – specific lengths/sites on the DNA, containing the information for inherited traits, coded by the order of the four bases. Genes and gene markers also come in pairs – known as loci.

**Microsatellites** – DNA markers which are present in the 90% of noncoding DNA, come in pairs, one from each parent.

**Allele** – form of a gene or genetic marker at its specific locus. There are two alleles at each locus – one from each parent.

### **Parentage verification**

A scientifically based method for verifying parentage is crucial to any breeding programme, to ensure that pedigree information, upon which breeding decisions are made, is absolutely accurate. Reliance on standard methods such as observation, manual identification and record-keeping produces a surprisingly high level of errors. Even in the 'gold standard' of pedigrees, the Thoroughbred Stud Book, established in 1791 by Wetherby and Sons, recent genetic studies tracing back to the 30 founder thoroughbred mares showed that up to 50% of maternal lines contained DNA they could not possess if the pedigrees were accurate.

While it has been standard in New Zealand for some years that all thoroughbred and standardbred foals undergo DNA genotyping and parentage verification before they can be registered, it is equally important for all breed societies that their pedigree keeping uses an accurate scientifically based method of parentage verification.

### **How is a genotype produced in the laboratory and then used to verify parentage for the foal?**

This technology is the same as that used in human forensics and parentage testing.

1. The first step in any form of genetic testing involves isolating DNA from the individual involved. In horses the sample of choice for DNA testing is hair– specifically the hair follicle cells attached to hair pulled from the mane or tail.
2. DNA is extracted from the hair follicle cells, and it contains the entire DNA sequence from all of the chromosomes of that horse.
3. From this DNA 12 specific gene markers, microsatellites, are tested to produce the DNA profile or genotype for that individual. At each of the 12 microsatellite markers there is a pair of alleles, one from each parent.
4. The two alleles of the foal are compared with those from the dam and from the sire, for each of the 12 markers tested, to ensure that one of each pair has indeed come from the dam and one from the sire.

Steps 1-3 result in the production of the individual animals DNA profile, which can then be used for identification or for use in parentage verification.

Step 4 is the process of parentage verification, and this test is more than 99.9% accurate.

Below is an example of a parentage report for 5 of the 12 microsatellites.

The abbreviations across the top row are the names of the microsatellite markers.

In the columns below are the 2 alleles present for that marker in the foal, the dam and the sire.

	HTG4	ASB2	ASB17	HTG10	LEX33
<b>Foal</b>	KK	KR	NR	LM	MQ
<b>Dam</b>	KO	PR	LN	LL	OQ
<b>Sire</b>	KL	KP	RR	MN	LM

For each marker you can see that one allele has come from the dam and one from the sire. For example, for the microsatellite ASB2 the foal has the alleles K and R. R has come from the dam and K from the sire. For parentage to be verified there can be no mismatches at any of the 12 markers.

Equine parentage laboratories worldwide use the same set of 12 markers, under the recommendation of the International Society of Animal Genetics, so that exchange of information can take place between laboratories and breed societies in different countries. This means that horses don't have to be retested when they travel internationally, and when imported semen is used it can be accompanied by a DNA profile for use in parentage reporting for any offspring.

Sometimes the results produced are not as expected– there will always be surprises when dealing with horses! Some of the scenarios we see where there are mismatches between foal and/or dam and sire include mares swapping foals in the paddock, and stallions that should not have been with a particular mare using all sorts of devious means (sometimes seemingly impossible) to mate with said mare. Then there are the cases involving human error - mares can be misidentified, transcription errors can occur filling out the paperwork, and hair samples can be put in the wrong envelopes. But with DNA technology and some old fashioned detective work we can now reach a conclusion on the vast majority of these difficult cases.

It must be remembered that we can only produce parentage reports for a foal if we have the DNA profiles for the dam and sire on the database. For this reason it is extremely important to test all breeding stock (or possible breeding stock) as soon as possible. Every year we see a number of cases where foals can not be registered because the dam has died before she has been DNA typed.

Dr Jenny Cahill  
 Director  
 Equine Parentage and Animal Genetic  
 Services Centre  
 Massey University  
 Palmerston North

## **Springston Trophy, Cromwell 2007**

Springston Trophy, the South Island Premier Pony Club Teams Eventing Competition was held this year at Cromwell, Central Otago.

There were 36 teams of 6 riders. Results of this year and past year's of Springston Trophy can be found at [www.springston-trophy.org.nz](http://www.springston-trophy.org.nz)



Tallyho Hobo leaving the water complex (Jessica Poole)

You may well wonder why Springston Trophy is featured in this Newsletter? Because there were six Connemara Ponies competing, that is why. Out of over 200 horses and ponies, when one considers the very low numbers of Connemara Ponies in New Zealand, this is an exceptional number to see at such an important event.

Bunratty Court Jester, Scarlett of Ridgway, TallyHo Hobo, and Timaunga Skylark all were competing in the Junior Section. Takou Bay Aphrodite and Timaunga Abbeyfeale competed in the Intermediate Section.

The photo is a still frame captured from video. If you want to check out more photos go here: [www.dm-photos.com/Galleries/SpringstonTrophy07/riders.html](http://www.dm-photos.com/Galleries/SpringstonTrophy07/riders.html) and search for the rider by name. If you want to see the actual videos (low quality) go here: <http://youtube.com/connemaranz>

Sheila Ramsay

## **FROM THE REGISTRAR**

### **Transfers**

Pony	Transferred To:	From:
Jacinda's Delight of Summer Valley (M91)	L&E Storey, Papakura	K.Garner, Helensville
Timaunga Firefly (M98)	Nicky Mee, Cannington	Eve Turner, Cannington
Ridgeway Kilkullen (PG175)	Courtney Counsell, Port Chalmers	T. Hore, Kurow
Tallyho Hannibal (PG160)	S. Greer, Oxford	S. Jennings, Albany
Tallyho Shadow (PG 159)	D&G Battensby, Ruawai	S.Jennings, Albany
Knockrah Moonshadow (M103)	A Turner, Cannington	L.Gillespie, Palmerston Nth.(L).
Kohatu Windsong (PM175)	Emily Butcher, CHCH	A.Hicks, Palmerston Nth
Taihoa White Frost (PM172)	Emma Power, Hawarden	B.Reed, Cust
Taihoa Kings Spirit (PG189)	Arabella Jarman, Kaiapoi	A. Platt, Blenheim
Tallyho Violet (F038)	S. Greer, Oxford	R. Weaver
Devon of Ridgeway (M 96)	Roper family, Governors Bay	S.Greer, Oxford
Kasia Gold (PM144)	Felicity Downie, Upper Moutere	Sonia Padrutt
Aquila Troy (QG4)	Amanda Finlayson, West Melton	H. Ringland, CHCH
Timaunga Skylark (M63)	Nicky Catterick, Queenstown	P. Mahy, Lyttelton

### Registrations 1<sup>st</sup> August 2006- 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007

NAME	DOB	SIRE	DAM
Tallyho Zeus	13/10/06	Glenormiston Jasper	Lonsdale Gentle Breeze
Tallyho Pompeii	5/10/06	Glenormiston Jasper	Sally (TB)
Hello Lilli	23/12/05	Lonsdale Legacy	Mildred (Warmblood)
Applewood	24/09/06	Lonsdale Legacy	Sherwood Pessuasion (NZRP)
Windward Chelsea	29/03/07	Ridgeway Stonelea	Dorrian Massoud (Arab)
Kohatu Rose Moon	6/12/06	Lonsdale Moonwind	Canningvale Bonnie Sue
Rocky	5/02/07	Sun n Air of Summer Valley	Ella (Standardbred)
Windward Pippi	21/09/06	Ridgeway Stonelea	Pridie (Standardbred)
Windward Indiana Jones	17/09/06	Capparis Casanova	Bunratty Cushla
Songlands Tralee	12/11/06	Capparis Casanova	Taihoa Puff n Stuff
Rednalhghih Hayman	20/09/06	Capparis Casanova	Royal Park Flirtacious
Ted.E.Bear	18/10/04	Go Corp (TB)	Canningvale Bonnie Kate
Timaunga Moy	22/01/07	Capparis Casanova	Timaunga Tara
Crossiebeg Brennan	17/12/06	Capparis Casanova	Taihoa Cloudy
Thornwood Cinnamon	31/10/06	Glenormiston Rowan	Bunratty Shannon's Way
Wembleybrook Realta	11/01/07	Capparis Casanova	Biwmares Madonna
Wembleybrook O'Driscoll	16/09/06	Capparis Casanova	Galway Jeanette
Wembleybrook Knockraha	14/12/06	Capparis Casanova	Willobbee (TB)
Wembleybrook Quest	24/08/06	Rememberance (NZRP)	Wembleybrook Destiny
Wembleybrook Celtic Rose	6/10/06	Capparis Casanova	Forli Petite Rose (pony)
Wembleybrook Caperkeeley	5/08/06	Dragonwyck Havana (NZRP)	Wembleybrook Capercaillie
Wembleybrook Liberty Fair	20/11/06	Sun n Air of Summer Valley	My Two Dads (TB)
Rydal Moett	1/10/06	Capparis Casanova	Rydal Dublin Bay (pony)
Taihoa Kings Spirit	1/10/2000	Ridgeway Stonelea	Aquila Myra (Part Arab)
Windward Riley	23/09/07	Ridgeway Stonelea	Darvel Mistress Natalie (Ponybreed)
Kiwi Gold Breeze	23/05/07	Aranui Kiwi Magic (Welsh)	Kasia Gold
Aquila Tully	23/11/07	Arimba Larikin	Aquila Tara
Windward Finnegan	29/11/07	Lonsdale Moonwind	Kohekohe Colleen



Timaunga Chortle (left) and Galway Jeanette (right) at Tom MacLochlainns seminar in Christchurch.

*Ridgeway Kilkelly (1992-2005)*  
Lonsdale Moonwind x Effie (State of Kings TB Mare)

It has been two years since Kelly sadly passed away, and until now I have not been able to bring myself to write farewell to the horse that was my best friend for eight years. Kelly was a true ambassador for the Connemara breed, and everyone who came in touch with her fell in love with her easy going nature. She was a horse any body could ride and enjoy. There are simply not the words to describe what a lovely horse she was. She was everything I could have ever wanted in a horse.

She was bred by Taieri Hore, and in 1997 she kindly leased her to me. A couple of years down the track I was very fortunate to be able to purchase her. In the early days we did everything there was to do, ranging from eventing, show jumping, dressage, showing to trekking and trail riding. It also wasn't uncommon for her to be out showing one weekend and off trekking the next and Kelly was completely at home in both settings. As time went on and I went to university I scaled down my riding and concentrated on just showing. I was very kind to have my mum working her during the week and I would meet up with her in the weekends at the shows. In her final couple of years of showing she also started doing side-saddle with a fellow rider and she also turned to be just as successful here too.



Champion Side-Saddle Mount Otago Taieri  
A&P 2000 Rider: Bronwyn Woodhead

Park Hack at the Elderslie Pony Club Mini Show.

Glenardon Valencia (born 2004) by Glen Cree Victoree (Riding Pony) has just been sent away to be broken in, Throughout her career she amassed several champions and reserves on the flat, and in side-saddle, and picked up many ribbons across all disciplines. Kelly won the Errislannan Perpetual Trophy for four consecutive years (1998-2001) and won the North Otago Pleasure Horseman Senior Youth Distance Award for three consecutive years (1998-2000). Kelly placed in nearly every Paced and Mannered class she entered, which was a great recognition of who she was.

In 2001, with the mounting workload of University Kelly was Semi-retired and was sent away to be put in foal. Upon returning home in December 2001 she re-entered the show ring where she continued to perform well right through to her eventual retirement in March 2002.

Kelly then went on to produce 3 foals, Glenardon Kintire (born 2002) by Young Runaway (TB) has just begun her debut in the show ring and is picking up admirers where ever she goes. At her first show she was Champion she will be a very promising prospect for next

season.

Glenardon Dangerzone (born 2005) by Dayboy LS (Hanoverian/TB) will be broken in early spring 2008, a real saddle hunter type.

Kelly will forever remain as the most treasured horse that I have had the delight of owning, and riding. It is hard to believe that's it's been two years since she passed away, and it still brings great sadness that she's no longer here. But with her three exceptional foals her legacy will continue and she will never be forgotten.

And to my dearest friend; thank-you for all the many wonderful moments and experiences that we have shared, you are literally a one in a million!

Rebecca Drummond



## **DISCLAIMER**

We welcome all submissions for the newsletter – this is a publication for the members of the CPSNZ, created by its members.

Please note that all material, news and correspondence submitted for publication in this newsletter will be treated without prejudice or favour.

Please ensure that any material submitted for consideration will not violate copyright.

Reputable papers will be officially acknowledged, all other correspondence or submitted articles are the opinions of individuals and are not necessarily those of the committee or office bearers of the CPSNZ, and as such do not necessarily represent the views of the society.

## **THE 'COMER REPORT' - A BRIEF SYNOPSIS**

### **Introduction**

The full report was written to give to Mr Tomas MacLochlainn, President of the Connemara Pony Breeders Society, Ireland during his visit to New Zealand. The following information is drawn from the full report into a more simplified format suitable for the Newsletter. The full report is easily attainable by contacting the Secretary; it is recommended that breeders do obtain a copy of this report. The information contained within it is important to the future well being of the Connemara Pony in New Zealand.

While the NZ Stud Books contain the raw data more meaning can be gained through analysis and discussion, hence the drafting of this report. A need was also seen to build on the information presented in the Feely report<sup>1</sup> that took a snapshot of combined New Zealand and Australian foal data of three years (1998 – 2001) by:

- ♦ Presenting just the New Zealand situation.
- ♦ Including at all purebred mares and stallions starting from the beginning in the 1970's.
- ♦ Looking at where the breed is at now and the risks and opportunities ahead for the Connemara Pony in New Zealand.

It is the belief of the author and other interested persons that this report will be of interest to New Zealand breeders and hopefully that it will promote thoughtful discussion. The information presented in this report is based on the CPSNZ Studbooks, CPSNZ newsletters, public sources such as the internet, and from personal contact with other members of CPSNZ.

Calculations of Coefficients of Inbreeding (COI) % and Coefficients of Relationship (COR) % have been made using the "Breedmate" computer programme and where possible include ancestors back to the original entry in the Connemara Pony Stud Book in Ireland. E.g. the ancestors of Blandings Henrietta, Juliet, and Brigid back to Bog Oak (Ire 247) are included. The COI% and COR% may not be exactly comparable with those presented in the Feely report due to differing methods of analysis and recording.

While this report is considered to be reasonably accurate, without going through an extremely time consuming verification process accuracy cannot be guaranteed. Any inaccuracies are likely to be minor and insufficient to alter the conclusions of the report. The author is happy to amend any verifiable inaccuracies which become apparent.

### **The Imported Stallions**

In this synopsis, there is a chart below, which against each stallion is listed the total number of registered progeny, total number of daughters registered with CPSNZ and the number of daughters which have foaled in the past three breeding seasons. In the full report, figures for the past ten years are used.

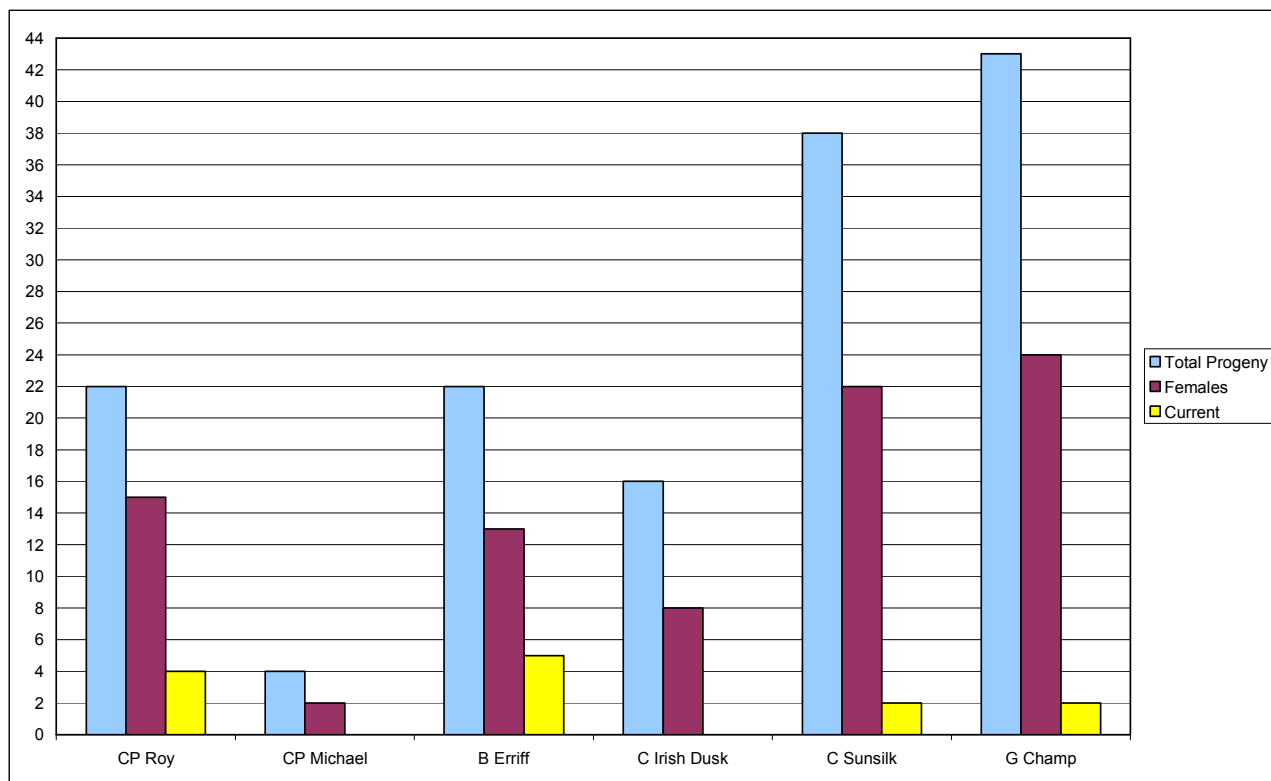
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<sup>1</sup> "Characterisation of the Connemara Ponies in Four Regional Groups" by Deirdre Feely, Patrick Brophy and Katherine Quinn.

As an estimate only about half of the daughters of a stallion have contributed to the next generation – some die without breeding, others become “lost” when they are sold and the new ownership is not notified to CPSNZ, others are mated to non-Connemara stallions.

Similarly, some stallions have had very few opportunities to leave purebred progeny.

Stallion Progeny



**Total Progeny** is the total number of progeny registered to each of the original imported stallions.

**Females** is the number of registered female offspring.

**Current** is the number of female offspring which have foals registered to them in the past 3 years (does not include the 2007-08 season).

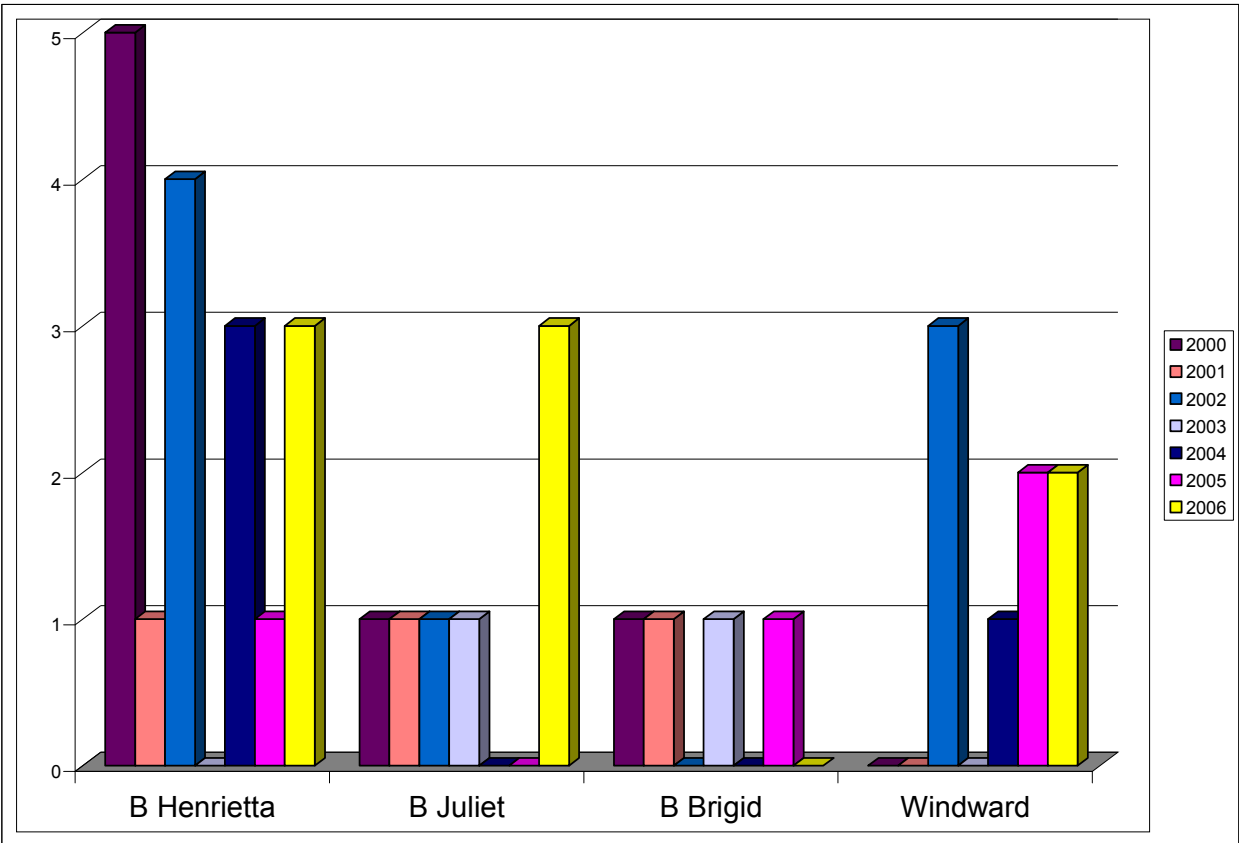
It is obvious from the above graph that the progeny numbers are very skewed. The primary reason for this situation arises because the majority of the mares by Ganty Champ are out of Chiltern Sunsilk mares. These resulting mares carrying both the predominant stallion lines have had until 2005 no potential sire with which they could be mated.

Combined with the bloodline tangle is the geographical distribution of the mares; there is no outcross stallion available in the area where the majority of these mares are located.

**The Imported Mares**

Also creating another genetic bottleneck is the preponderance of one particular mare line within in the breeding population.

**Mare Line Progeny which have foaled in the past 6 years**



This graph is condensed: founding mares which have not 'bred on' have been excluded for the sake of clarity of this schematic diagram. The progeny included in the above are daughter, grand daughters and great grand daughters of the founding mares, through the female line only.

**How the mare lines affects the whole population.**

New Zealand currently has 8 inspected and approved stallions. Of the eight, five stallions are grandsons or great grandsons of Blandings Henrietta – the most numerous of the mare lines in New Zealand. All five of these stallions have Chiltern Sunsilks close-up in their pedigrees - one is a son of Chiltern Sunsilks, three are grandsons, and another is a great-grandson. Three are sons of Ganty Champ, two are full brothers, and one other is a grand-son of Ganty Champ. Two of this group of stallions, Liss Tara Ganty Gold and Sun-n-Air of Summer Valley carry the dilute gene.

Opportunities for these five stallions are minimal because so many mares are descended from Chiltern Sunsilks and/or Ganty Champ.

Matings of male with female descendants of **Blandings Henrietta** has produced Coefficients of Inbreeding (COI) as high as 17% - similar to what would occur by mating half-sibs. In the long term this level of inbreeding is unhealthy.

**Blandings Henrietta** was very closely related to **Blandings Juliet** and **Blandings Brigid** being by **Clonkeehan Archer** and out of **3/4 sisters**. This line is the most successful, numerically, of the imported mares and has accounted for almost 45% of the foals registered in the past 11 years and 5 of the current stallions (Bunratty Chieftan, Bunratty Kerrygold, Liss Tara Ganty Gold, Ridgeway Stonelea and Sun-n-Air of Summer Valley). This line has sufficient numbers to be secure.

Blandings Juliet has provided nearly 20% of foals registered in the past 11 years but has not contributed to the stallion lines. This line is moderately secure.

Windward has contributed 11% of foals over this time. This mare line is moderately secure. Windward has contributed the stallions Lonsdale Moonwind and Lonsdale Legend (exp.).

Blandings Brigid has contributed 9% of foals over this time. This mare line is moderately secure. There are no stallions from this line.

The remaining 17% of foals over the past 11 years are from lines that are:

- ◆ Blandings Ardrahan, Glenormiston Dingle Bay, Irish Mist
- ◆ or have 2-3 mares and fillies – Blandings Kimberley, Blandings Jade,

- ♦ Or are newly imported – Biwmares Madonna.

The degree of relationship between NZ's registered mares and stallions is such that most mare owners have very limited options for mating their mares. Either there is a lack of a suitable unrelated stallion within reasonable proximity or distance makes the exercise uneconomic. Pony breeding is seldom economic in New Zealand given high land and labour costs; with the added difficulties in accessing suitable stallions the number of foals born each year has remained low.

Nearly 72% of foals are female line descendants of the closely related mares Blandings Henrietta (44%), Blandings Juliet (19%) and Blandings Brigid (9%). Of the remaining mare lines only Windward (11%) has made a significant contribution. Clearly, the dominance of a small number mare lines has contributed to the limited genetic diversity of the population in New Zealand.

So where does this leave the Connemara Pony in New Zealand?

Because of the high costs of freight and insurance to import ponies to this country (never mind the actual purchase price of the pony) this is an option which is not readily available to most private individuals. One 'solution' would be for the importation of semen.

One thing is abundantly clear however, from both the full report and this synopsis, is that the continuing 7 foals (on average) per year presently being born, an exceptionally high drop out of prospective broodmares and the lack of suitable mates for the mares that are available for breeding, equates to one thing; the population of purebred Connemara Ponies in New Zealand is not sustainable.

If the breed is to continue successfully into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, thought and action needs to be taken now to ensure that the breed survives.

All of the information in this article is derived from the report:

"Connemara Pony Bloodlines in New Zealand" (April 2007). Prepared by Fiona Comer, B.Ag.Sci.

A full copy of the report is available directly from Fiona.

# A Report on the Connemara Pony in New Zealand 2007

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## Foreword

When travelling to Australia in April/May, part of my brief was to submit a report to the CPBSA on my observations. I submit a similar report to the New Zealand Society in the hope that it will be of value to breeders there and without duplicating Fiona Comer's report of April '07.

## Context

On a worldwide basis the New Zealand Society is one of the smaller members of the International Committee of Connemara Pony Societies. It has a relatively small number of breeders and ponies spread over a very large area. It is geographically very isolated from all the other societies except the Australian one. Having two islands complicates matters further. None of those problems are insurmountable but the New Zealand society needs a strategy to face the future taking those issues into account.

## Breeders

The enthusiasm of breeders, both longterm breeders and beginners is very encouraging. Their welcome, generosity, eagerness to learn and hunger for knowledge was overwhelming and bodes well for the future. The big number of younger breeders committed to the Connemara Pony is the Societies strongest asset. Many are very experienced as riders in hunting, dressage and eventing and this helps in assessing movement and conformation.

## Research

Breeders are very familiar with pedigrees and study them assiduously. A lot of research is taking place on the bloodlines in the country and breeders are anxious to improve the gene pool. Fiona Comer's research is particularly praiseworthy and highlights the needs of the breed.

Many breeders work in isolation and need every help in areas like education and research.

## Type Standard

Throughout the country there are many excellent ponies to be found, meeting the breed standard in every way. It would be difficult to fault a pony like Bunratty Dusky Lady, whose conformation, type and movement are of the highest order. There are other very good examples but care must be taken in regards to bone and substance. Some of the ponies are too light and lack the strength and power of the native pony. True traditional type must be to the forefront of any future discussion with emphasis on bone and substance.

## Height

The height of the pony is an interesting issue in that the population height in general is like a throwback to Ireland in the fifties and sixties when the majority of the ponies were in the 13' 2" rather than the 14'2" category. This is probably due to the size of the original imports and to the fact that the Carna Dun line, though present in the herd had not the effect of escalating the height. Two points arise from this situation. New Zealand does not have an issue, unlike most other countries, with a tendency for ponies to be overheight. This is obviously a good thing. This however leaves a gap in the market which breeders cannot fill, that is the 14' to 14' 2" pony. A pony of this size, especially a gelding, is in great demand in Europe for teenagers and many adults. This type of pony finds its way onto nearly every national showjumping team in Europe and provides invaluable promotion for the breed.

It seems that this gap in the market exists and that there were instances of young riders going from their first small pony onto a big horse. Breeders should look closely at this market as a means of promoting the breed. The Connemara pony should be marketed as a pony suitable for many adults and not just a pony for small children. The true potential of the Connemara Pony as a supreme athlete on a par with any other breed is seen in the 14' to 14' 2" pony. Upsizing is an option but care must be taken that it does not lead to problems at the other end. The CPBS are currently planning a ridden class for over 50's at next years annual show!

## Classification and Inspection

There are obvious logistical difficulties with the inspection of ponies when one considers the enormous distances involved in each island, not to mention coordinating the two. It is extremely time consuming and costly to get three inspectors to see an

individual pony simultaneously. In this regard the Society is to be commended for its work in this area which can only happen through the generosity and commitment of the inspectors.

The marking scheme for colt inspections needs to be looked at immediately with a view to raising the standard needed for a pass. The pass mark should be raised considerably so that only a top quality colt can become a stallion. The standard required must be higher than at present.

The obvious difficulty associated with this is that raising the standard may result in fewer colts being accepted which in turn can cause difficulties for breeders in isolated areas. For the longterm good however, standards must be raised or pony Type will suffer.

### **Stallions**

Stallions should be models of the breed. They should score highly on Type, Conformation and Movement. They should also look like stallions and exude masculinity and presence. Many of the stallions in use are quite nice but lack the aura, strength and robustness that should mark a Connemara Pony Stallion. A determined effort is needed in this area so that some top class stallions are available to breeders in New Zealand.

### **Branding**

Branding as a means of identification is and has always been the New Zealand way. In a situation where pedigrees and backgrounds may be uncertain, it can give rise to difficulties where the brand is illegible. In most Societies, bloodtyping, microchipping and marking are done together. Could New Zealand move to this situation or plan longterm for it?

### **A.I.**

The recent experiment with frozen semen from Spinway Comet was a huge technical success and surely provides a pointer for the future. With the ICCPS meeting again in Clifden in March, A.I. could be a worthwhile topic for discussion as most Societies have an interest in it. For that meeting, worldwide lists could be compiled of ponies that are available through A.I. If details of pedigree, performance records, showing records, progeny etc. were added, the list could be an interesting resource.

### **Education**

Education on Type is essential on an ongoing basis. Breeders must have a clear image of the kind of pony they want to produce if it is to conform to true Type. The smaller, lighter pony, that can often be seen, suggests that the New Zealand breeder is either unfamiliar with the Connemara Pony, as found at present in Ireland or else that the breeding stock in New Zealand needs to be augmented by ponies with better bone and substance.

Breeders must be encouraged to read books and magazines as well as to look at videos. This will gradually but inevitably train the eye. "The History of the CPBS 1923 to 1998" by Elizabeth Petch and "Shrouded in Mist" by Pat Lyne are essential reading. Videos on Type and on the Clifden Show are also available. They make a valuable educational resource.

The best educational opportunities of all come with the involvement of Palmerston North University. With so much valuable work already taking place there, it seems an ideal location for shows, meetings, seminars, inspections or whatever. If the Society could avail of the expertise of other staff there, it would become a resource of which other Societies can only dream.

An effort should also be made to encourage, in some way, some of the younger breeders/inspectors, at the outset of their careers, to visit Clifden during the August Show week. Such an experience, seeing the show, visiting farms, meeting the breeders and partaking in seminars would be a once in a lifetime marvellous educational opportunity. Every effort would be made in Ireland to facilitate such a visit by two or three New Zealanders.

An education programme for inspectors is essential. All the inspectors must be "singing from the same hymn sheet" and must be familiar with Connemara Type. Generally speaking Conformation and Movement should not be a problem but constant refresher programmes on Type should be undertaken.

### **The Pony's Career**

Many New Zealand Ponies have outstanding performance careers and have provided owners and their children with wonderful memories. They have also carried the Connemara flag at so many shows throughout the country. One cannot ask for more from a pony. Others, like those at Ambury Park, are part of an incredibly rewarding education programme. Some other ponies are bred occasionally and others not at all.

In a country where importation is so difficult and where there is a need for good models of the breed, it is essential to obtain a better balance between breeding and performance. It is imperative that the better ponies be bred at some stage and this should not be left to the end of their performance career when it may prove impossible. Some of the very best ponies have never been bred and regardless of their performance successes, this represents a great loss to the breed and to the members of the Society.

## **Newsletters**

The Society Newsletter is an excellent example of its kind. It is informative and educational. It puts people in touch with each other and helps to overcome the isolation of members. Every effort should be made to make it available to everybody interested in the pony in New Zealand.

## **Halfbreds**

The crossing of the Connemara with the Thoroughbred and other breeds helps to promote the Connemara. The pony stallions give substance, jumping ability, intelligence and a calm temperament to the progeny and is an excellent way to promote the breed. Some really fine halfbreds are being produced and will inevitably bring attention to the breed. In Ireland, it was such a halfbred, Dundrum, that put the Connemara on the International map fifty years ago.

## **Importation**

The importation of Glenormiston Rowan provides a welcome boost to the gene pool and one hopes he will be a success. Fiona Comer's work, however, shows that much more is needed. Whether further imports are an option is the question for the Society. Perhaps if some serious discussion were to take place, some kind of co-operative effort on the part of several breeders could provide an answer. Sourcing suitable bloodline is not the problem as much as getting the relevant ponies to New Zealand.

## **Recommendations**

**Education** Plan to send three New Zealanders to Clifden for August 2008

**Gene Pool** Expand the gene pool either by importation or A.I.

**Breeding** Target the 14' 2" market for Geldings.

**Inspections** Review the marking sheet for inspections in order to demand a higher standard

In conclusion, I would like to thank most sincerely the New Zealand Connemara Society for giving me the opportunity to visit that beautiful part of the world and meet some many wonderful people. It was a privilege.

Tomás Mac Lochlainn

October '07



## NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

2007

TO: ALL ICCPS SOCIETIES, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.

Welcome to Newsletter No. 2 for 2007 – 2008 season.

On behalf of the Executive of the ICCPS I would like to wish each and every member of the International groups of Connemara Pony lovers the happiest Christmas possible and that the year 2008 will not only be prosperous but will bring those things to you and your families that you privately wish to happen. In these wishes I hope that we do not forget the very reason for this period each year! From comments in our local newspapers this week when children were asked what Christmas was about not one mentioned that it was the birth day of Christ but that it was simply when Santa came; when we have a holiday, and when presents are given out!!

The newspapers and TV news from around the world still show us that Climate change must be challenged by all countries. Massive snow falls, blizzards, floods, depletion of the Arctic and Antarctic plateaus, and down here, a continuing devastating drought and so on. For a few days then perhaps let us remember, enjoy our families and the ponies and look to 2008 for some changes that can and will count!

In looking back over this year and past years at what has been achieved or not achieved I think that the best possible result on the Stud Book Rules has been reached. I have been corrected in saying that the new 2007 rules have been accepted by all groups. I still believe that this is correct, and, whilst some EU groups have varied these rules to suit individual needs, the basic rules as debated for so long remain just that – A standard set of rules has been agreed and variations are allowed for EU groups so long as the EU principles are adhered to. We still of course have the “Outsiders” who are working to their own programs based on the 1998 Rules with the possible change over in later years when and if a change is seen as appropriate.

We are all aware just how long this task has taken to reach a climax. It all began way back in the late 1980s and then the draft set of Stud book rules was produced by the CPBS in 1998, agreed to; was brought back to meetings for further variations annually until 2007 when the rules were finally set as the standard Stud book Rules.

The Data Base project has been a long time coming to fruition – but – it is hoped, it too, will be able to be finalised in 2008 and thus provide a ready reference to those seeking to find the breeding lines etc that they wish to follow or research!

Standardisation of Judges/Inspectors has also been an agenda item for some time and has not as yet been finalised. A standardised veterinary Inspection document is now used by all Societies. Movement of Ponies from and into any Stud book Society world wide is now recognised.

The Feely report has strongly indicated to all groups the deterioration of the genetic basis of the Connemara Pony herd with all Societies being made aware of need to maintain those basic qualities of Type, height, etc and breed to ensure a strengthening of the genetic base world wide.

It is an unquestionable statement that almost all of the work of the ICCPS since its inception in 1999 has been focused on producing a set of rules acceptable to all. I believe that this was the original role of the ICCPS –“a standardised set of rules to suit EU Council demands”. Subsequent to that function, it was wisely decided to develop an organisation that was to *develop, maintain, support, promote and coordinate a system whereby the Connemara pony could be developed as a distinctive breed world wide.*

With the obvious primary function of Standardised rules being acceptance in 2007, I feel that the roles of the ICCPS must now change to encompass the wider requirements of the mission statement. I have drafted a proposal along these lines and sent it to the Executive for thought and comment. You will also find that an article on possible future roles of the ICCPS will appear in the 2007 edition of “An Capaillin”.

There are a number of areas in which the ICCPS can now move to comply with the Mission Statement of development, Promotion, support and co-ordination of the Rules for Registration as laid down by the Mother Society. It must ensure that the data base is finalised and available for all; that a standard system of Inspections for all Ponies world wide is devised and accepted; The standardised training for all Inspectors/classifiers to ensure that Type and other areas of uniqueness of the Pony is achieved; and the development of a world wide promotion program and, I would hope, a Register of performance Ponies and their progenies is produced, updated regularly and available through the Website to ensure that those who are looking for that unique performance quality can find the right types.

The register would show the names of those ponies that are competing – in what field of competition- performance details, the Sire and Dams of these ponies, and, as part of the Register, Both Dams and Sires listed and this list to then become the basis from which breeders and owners of performance ponies can refer to in their selection processes. This program could be further extended to provide a premium list of Sires and dams.

These then are just my personal visions for the future of the ICCPS. I would ask that you think about them, please also see that these areas are discussed within your Society and your delegates for 2008 are aware of your ideas. WHY? It is my intention, when drafting an agenda for 2008 to seek approval from the Executive, and your groups, to have these concepts as the basis of that agenda. A new start and role for the ICCPS and what the Constitution requires.

Whilst on 2008 agenda – remember that the ICCPS meeting will, be held on 27 March 2008. In a conversation with Tom MacLochlainn this week we briefly looked at what that week’s program could encompass – *Thursday ICCPS Annual and technical meetings; Friday – inspection; Sat-Sun – festival activities – show jumping, free jumping, dressage, harness et;. Monday – further Inspections.* Remember this is very much a reminder so that you can begin to think about travel, accommodation etc. The CPBS has already forwarded a program of the Connemara festival for this period – 27 march – 2nd April. 2008. If you do not have a copy for your members please contact the CPBS office ASAP.

I have received from several sources, comments as to the cost and presentation of the new Inspection DVD released in Clifden this year. I have spoken to Tom and it appears that there was some wire crossing in relation to the cost of the DVD. The cost of the unit was and is 20 Euros.’ With copies still available at the CPBS office. The DVD has, it seems be well accepted throughout Ireland and other areas.

I hope that all Societies have forwarded their article for inclusion in “An Capaillin”. What a wonderful idea if the ICCPS could give this publication greater support, both in content and financial support, to ensure that our Mission statement was able to be further promoted through this source!

The afternoon coffee has just arrived – the Australia – New Zealand cricket match is now on TV so I again wish you all a very Merry Christmas, a Joyous and prosperous New Year and a wonderful crop of beautiful Connemara Foals come your spring. (Just to crow a little – the Aussie team has just won the three match series!)

John TENNANT  
Chair, ICCPS.