



Irish Horse Society March 2005

No. 34

Late last year and early this year we lost two founding members of the Irish Horse Society. In November Arthur Ryan passed on and in January we farewelled Thady Ryan. Both Arthur and Thady (distant relatives) came to New Zealand from Ireland in 1987, Thady choosing to live near Geraldine in South Canterbury which was his wife Anne's birthplace – he had made her a promise to live in New Zealand in retirement, and Arthur and Elizabeth purchased a farm at Cheviot in North Canterbury. Thady bought with him the magnificent purebred Irish stallion Kingsway Diamond, and Arthur bought Thoroughbred mares with plans to breed racehorses. At the time Laughtons Legend RID who coincidentally travelled out on the same plane as Kingsway Diamond was being prepared for stud duties. The time was right for the formation of an Irish Draught Horse Society in NZ and the inaugural meeting was held in March 1989 where Thady was appointed chairman and Arthur elected as secretary.



Both held these positions diligently for many years where they contributed their significant expertise to the development of the constitution, classification system and registration protocols we continue to use. Many of the meetings were lively and challenging and Arthur in particular being very precise about the way meetings were run. The Society now continues with sound foundations that were built as a consequence of the diligence and knowledge of these two fine Irishmen.

We extend to Anne and Elizabeth and their families our sincere sympathy and our thanks for the contribution their husbands have made to the establishment of the Irish Draught Horse Society in NZ.

Reflections.....

How can we possibly begin to write a tribute to a person as charismatic as our patron Thady Ryan MFH. There are so many adjectives to describe him: his diligence, his sincere spirituality, his love of his wife and family, his support and encouragement, his implicit belief in the qualities of the Irish horse, his generosity and his loyalty, his energy and his sense of humour. Who will ever forget him at the time of the Irish Tour in 1998, sitting on the steps of his cousin's house in Dublin at 1am telling us stories while we waited for Anne to bring us a set of keys because we were locked out. We were enthralled by his pride in his country and respect he was held in throughout that tour. While his family always came first, his love of Irish horses came a close second, the enthusiasm with which he would talk to people about them and the light in his eyes when he saw one competing well. He did far more to promote the Irish horse in NZ by his sincere belief in their worth and the discussions he had with the unknowledgeable, than any amount of expensive advertising. He was so proud of Kingsway Diamond and his contribution to sport horse breeding in NZ. Although Kingsway Diamond died two years ago we are still receiving applications to register his progeny. A group of us were sitting in the grandstand at the Horse of the Year Show on St Patrick's Day discussing how we would like to reflect his life in the IDHS(NZ) newsletter, when we found we were watching an Irish horse jumping very well. What could be a better legacy to Thady than an Irish horse, at the HOY show competing at the top level – we knew he was smiling down at us. For those of us who knew him well it was not only the horses which made us enjoy his company it was his kindness, sincerity, the warmth with which he greeted and farewelled us, his wise-ness, and unconditional friendliness which we will hold dear. His book we will treasure as a wonderful reflection of his life, the positive title "My Privileged Life" reflects the positive-ness of this attitude because it was not always easy, as I am sure Anne would testify. Thady enriched our souls and throughout life we will thank him for this.

Lesley Spence (Registrar and foundation member of IDHS(NZ))

Thady Ryan M.F.H. "The Man Himself"

I remember the first time that I met Thady. He and Anne were expounding the virtues of their beloved Irish Draught Horses to anyone who would listen at the Canterbury A&P Show at its old home at the Addington Showgrounds. They had recently imported Kingsway Diamond and had set up a stand, complete with the Irish flag and plenty of photos of Irish Draughts doing what they do best. Raewyn and I were captivated by Thady's infectious enthusiasm and passion for the breed and soon after we were "hooked". Thady pulled us in and carried us with him on a journey that changed and enriched our lives. Looking back now on this turn of events, it is obvious that Thady had been doing this to people all his life, with all sorts of different causes and projects. This is a special gift given to only a precious few and rarely seen. Thady had the ability to lead by example and gather people to his cause. To progress any particular project that was dear to him he could be at different times a salesman or a charmer. What never altered was his vision, determination and single-mindedness. There are many, many examples of this during his "retirement" in NZ. I am sure that we can all think of a few that affected us personally.

In 1998 Thady lead a group of Kiwi Irish Horse enthusiasts on a trip to his beloved Ireland. He put in countless hours ensuring that everything would go without a hitch. He had obviously worked his magic on friends and family in Ireland, turning them into tour guides, bus drivers, entertainers and caterers. He even persuaded some to take unscheduled holidays so that the tourists could take over their Dublin homes. They all greeted us with such enthusiasm, it was obvious that Thady had worked his magic on them as he had on us. What really moved me was the absolute awe that Thady was held in by everyone we came across. I vividly remember one of our many stops on tour to visit the Duhallow hounds and kennels. The Master and his staff were genuinely humbled by our visit and considered having Thady choose to visit them an honour and a privilege. We were indeed travelling with the "Man Himself".

A deeply religious man, every action and every decision he made reflected this. He lived with his faith every moment and at the end when he knew his time on this earth was coming to a close, he rejoiced at the thought of what lay ahead for him. I would suggest that if you haven't read Thady's book - get a copy. Take your time with it. It is a vivid insight into the life of a remarkable man. Love and God Bless Thady- it has been a privilege.

Colin Price Past Chairman and foundation member of IDHS(NZ)

It all began for the Irish Draught Horse Society with a preliminary meeting on the 24th May 1989 at the Canterbury Jockey Club the chairman elect, being Thady. The vision quoted by Thady in his final courting days with Anne - "if I come to live in New Zealand I will bring an Irish Draught stallion and improve the hunters in New Zealand" was realised with the arrival of Kingsway Diamond and Laughtons Legend. How this has become evident in show rings and equestrian competitions throughout NZ - at the last Christchurch show the first 4 places in the saddle hunter class were all from Irish Draught lineage. Thady was chairman of the society until 1999 and was made patron the following year. Thady's idea of a good horse was anyone can breed one but it has to be Irish.

It was a great privilege in 1998 to be part of a contingent of 27 plus Anne, Thady and Gwen to soak up the atmosphere at the Dublin Horse show and travel around Thady's Ireland, as he called it "his Ireland". It was a memorable time as he introduced us to his family, friends and his home of Scarteen, where a great breakfast was had after a morning of cub hunting. Mention must be made of the two clock times in Ireland – "Irish and Scarteen" - Scarteen time is two hours late for everything.

Thady was an amazing ambassador to the New Zealand Irish Horse Society and never missed a meeting for the society in NZ and often represented the society in Ireland as well. He will really be missed with his enthusiasm, wit, and loving nature. God bless and may your new society in heaven be as wonderful as this one in New Zealand.

Bevan Souness Chairman IDHS(NZ)

News from the Council Meeting

Loose Jumping day – council have decided to hold the 3rd Annual Loose jumping day on 9 October at the RDA arena, Canterbury Park. Details will be advertised in the next newsletter and in local Christchurch papers.

Shamrock sashes – the following shows will be offered sashes for 2005/6:
Ashburton A & P show 28/29 Oct; Nelson Breeders Show (2) – Ridden show & In Hand show; Nelson A & P Show 19/20 Nov; -Timaru A & P Show 7/8 Oct; Southland A & P 9/10 Dec; Maniototo A & P 4 Mar 2006; Kaikoura A & P 25 Feb 06; Auckland Royal Easter show Feb 22-26 2006; Masterton A & P 17-19 Feb 06; Canty Foal show (May); NI All Breeds Show and Canty Horse & Pony Breeders show , Rotorua A & P 28/29 Jan 06, Waikato A & P

Irish Merchandise

We still have available polo shirts L, XL (\$30) and caps one size fits all (\$15) emerald green (of course) with the Society logo, and logo badges (\$7). Contact Debbie

Notice of Annual General Meeting

The Society's AGM will be held on 1st June 2005 at Palm Grove Senior Care Centre meeting room, 108 Marshland Road, Christchurch at 7.30pm. Palm Grove is next door to the Garden Hotel, so for those interested in a meal before the AGM, reservations can be made on 03 386 0088 at the Garden Restaurant.

Items for the agenda should be with the Secretary no later than 1st May 2005.

Nomination papers are available from the Secretary for the nomination of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Registrar and two Council Members. Present office holders are Chairman – Bevan Souness, Vice Chairman – John Norris, Secretary/Treasurer – Debbie Hewitt, Registrar – Lesley Spence – all are eligible for re-election.

Councillors due to retire by rotation are Jan Hales Wells (Canterbury) and Bruce Goldstone (Napier) -both are eligible for re-election. Council at present comprises of Anna Danielsen, Sarah Stone (to retire 2008), Lisa Clark, Adrienne Saunders (to retire 2007), Sheryl Gough, Lyn Turner (to retire 2006).

Nomination conditions:

1. Only members who have fully paid subscriptions for the year 2004/5 may nominate or be nominated.
2. Nomination must be signed by person nominated and the person making the nomination, before the nomination becomes valid.
3. Nomination papers will be recorded and the names of all valid nominations will be sent to all members for a postal vote, if required.
4. Nomination papers must be returned before 1st May 2005 to be valid.

Shamrock Sash winners

North Island Championship 3 January – Three of Diamonds & Helena Bennett
Canterbury Horse & Pony Breeders Show / South Island Championship 12 Feb 2005
- Coniston Maisie & Tracy Crossan

Kaikoura A & P Show 26 February – Summertime & Cassandra Smith
Nelson Horse & Pony Breeders Show – Tarsha Harris & Galtymore Ballyvista
Timaru A & P Show – Marriott Family & Sharn

North Island Championship 2005

The 2005 NI Championship held at the NI All Breeds Show was won by Helena Bennett (nee McLeod) and the Kingsway Diamond mare, Three of Diamonds. Their achievements included 2nd in the Irish section Turnout, 1st Irish Dry Mare over 4 years, Champion Irish Adult, Grand Champion Irish and the Shamrock Sash. They also competed in the Saddle Hunter section where they were awarded 2nd in the Turnout, 1st mare or gelding over 4 yrs over 163cm and Reserve Champion Adult Saddle Hunter. Showing in the Sport Horse section they were again 2nd in the Turnout and 2nd Dry mare over 4 years.

Helena writes: I found Gem, a 6yr old bay mare by Kingsway Diamond bred by Stefanie and the late John Hernon , advertised on the IDHS website in April 2004. I'd been out of riding for 6 yrs as I concentrated on getting a career, however on a business trip to Australia in Feb 04, I brought a horse magazine for the flight (very bad idea!!) The day I got back to NZ I was looking at horses - I'd looked at over 30 when I went to visit Gem at Hazeldine Farm in Waiuku and she would best be described as "one big mumma". She had been in the paddock for the better side of 8 months as John and Geoff didn't have the time, but I could see the potential and she had the most beautiful big eyes!



It's been nearly 10mths now and I couldn't be happier. We've won more Champions and Reserves in our first season in the show ring both in-hand and under saddle, than I thought possible - we even managed a Champion Mare and Supreme Sport Horse. We've done a few dressage days and have qualified for Prelim HOY - we even did a Novice Free Style - but it would be fair to say it was the "blind leading the blind" in that one, although we still managed to get 58.4%.

There are only 3 more shows left for us this season with a local A & P, then HOY and the Royal Easter. Even though we qualified for the Open Saddle Hunter classes I have decided to enter the Rising Stars Saddle Hunter being our first ever HOY - and we are also competing for the Prelim dressage title. Over winter we'll get in some more jumping - Gem loves to jump, she's very bold and it would be fair to say she's more competent than me in that area - nothing a few lessons won't fix!

So next season we hope to compete in the Saddle Hunter, Working Hunter over fences, Show Hunter and Novice Dressage, She really is a versatile horse that is an absolute pleasure to own – she's a bit cheeky and tries really hard to please - as cheesy as this sounds – she's really is a Gem".
Helena Bennett (nee McLeod)

South Island Championship 2005

The South Island championship was held in conjunction with the Canterbury Horse & Pony Breeders show in February. Entries were quite high again for the Irish section with over 20 Irish horses vying for the title. The Championship and Supreme Irish exhibit went to Coniston Maisie and Tracy Crossan who had risen in the early hours of Saturday morning and driven all the way from Ranfurly in Central Otago to attend the show. That's dedication for you! Maisie is a two year old filly by Coalmans Touch out of Merry, bred by A Gorman of Timaru. She won the Two year old filly class, then Champion Irish Youngstock and then was awarded Supreme Irish exhibit when judged against the Champion adult. She was then judged against the Champion Gelding and Best Irish Foal for the South Island Championship.

Maisie was also Champion Led Female Sporthorse at the Royal Show in Invercargill this year (with Warmblood horses 2nd, 3rd and 4th). She has also been Champion at North Otago, Otago/Taiari and Palmerston shows, and Reserve Champion Led Sporthorse at Gore and West Otago. Tracy says, "I really can't wait until next year! Well really I would like to skip next year so that my Maisie was automatically four and I could start showing her in Hunter classes! I am really looking forward to riding her ".

Purebred Irish Draughts – NZ Bred

There are now a number of purebred Irish youngsters that have been bred in NZ. Kilmanagh Banrion (King Of Diamonds x Kilmanagh Colleen), the purebred mare imported into NZ with Kingsway Diamond has produced four purebreds – 3 fillies and one colt. Her first purebred daughter Regann (by Kings County) was gifted to the society by Ann & Thady Ryan, and so far has produced two purebreds, a filly and a colt, for Lyn & Neville Turner: Eyreleigh Scarteen b 2002 and Eyreleigh Tullamore b.2003 both by Coalmans Touch.



Top: **Eyreleigh Scarteen** (as a two year old)

Below: **Eyreleigh Tullamore** (as a yearling)





Banrion's second purebred progeny is Eireann Grania (now a 5yr old) by Coalmans Touch She was sold to Australia and has since produced a colt foal (by Kings County) for owner Miesja Reynolds

Next comes Eireann Cormac (now a 2yr old) also by Coalmans Touch and also sold to Australia.

Banrion is at present with Lyn & Neville Turner at Ohoka in Canterbury, where she has produced a lovely Coalmans Touch filly named Eyreleigh Finnoula.



¾ Irish - Omagh Penrice bred by Bevan & Jo Souness, West Melton. Peaceful (by Laughtons Legend) and her 2 month old Coalmans Touch foal

Councillor Profiles

Over the next few newsletters I will include profiles of council members. Most members never get to meet the council "face to face", sometimes we speak on the phone or exchange emails but that can be the extent of our contact. Hopefully this will help you will get to know who the council are and how they became involved in the Irish Horse society. When I mentioned this idea at a council meeting I was not exactly "knocked over by the rush to volunteer to go first", so I am starting at the top and working my way down.....

Bevan Souness (Chairman)

Hi my name is Bevan Souness, I have been asked to do a profile on myself for the newsletter. This is my second year as President and I have been on the committee a number of years. It is a privilege to follow in the steps of Thady Ryan and Colin Price. All my life I have been interested in horses possibly from my mothers side of the family, as her maiden name was Hillis and from Southland they enjoyed owning and training race horses. I have owned and raced Thoroughbreds and Standardbreds with some success and with my wife Jo, have bred some nice Irish horses.

My interest has been mostly showing in hand, our first horse "Rosie" was one of the first crop by Laughtons Legend. We have had a lot of success in the show ring when classes had 13 plus in them. My biggest thrill was showing Rosie's full brother "Finn McCool" owned by our neighbours Gill and Murray Caird, to take the Supreme In Hand Award at the Christchurch Royal Show under a Scottish Judge.

Jo hunts "Rosie" with the Christchurch Hunt and she gives her a safe enjoyable day with her bold jumping. This year Jo will have the services of Millhouse, a Coalmans Touch gelding bred by Lesley Spence for her 2nd hunting horse. He is 5 years old and this year completed the Otago Heritage Cavalcade. We have bred "Irish" by Wynyard Agile and lately with Coalmans Touch. Our latest is "Omagh Penrice"



Banrion and her 2004 foal, Eyreleigh Finnoula



born 15 Oct 04 out of "Peaceful", a Laughton mare. He is a big laid back boy with a great temperament.

We own a small lifestyle block "Penrice" in West Melton on the outskirts of Christchurch and have bred and sold all of our horses. I play golf in the winter and enjoy gardening when time permits. We have 2 sons Ryan and Todd who are both in London doing their OE and have no love of the horse - possibly due to the mucking out for pocket money when young!

Last year in the spring the society held it's 2nd Loose Jumping Day, which was well received by all that attended. I would like to express my grateful thanks to my committee who are very loyal and hard working team, they make my job as president that much easier.

Debbie Hewitt (Secretary/Treasurer)

I have been secretary/treasurer of the society for.....actually quite a long time now, it must be 8 or 9 years. My involvement with Irish horses is not as deep as many other members of the council, but I can recognise a good product when I see one! I was first introduced to Irish horses when friends put their two thoroughbred mares to Kingsway Diamond and bred two colt foals - the friends were Colin and Raewyn Price and one of the colt foals was Kingcroft Wicklow. By the time Wicklow was ready to stand at stud, I had retired my mare and she was mated with him. I bred two fillies by him, both with lovely natures and good looks – I still have one at home waiting until I have time to ride her again. It was through Colin that I was approached to take on the role of secretary for the society. I do a lot of secretarial work for various horse organisations in Canterbury and I constantly find the number of horses of Irish descent quite amazing. Each time I do an event for Showjumping Canterbury another horse with Irish breeding appears that I had not heard of before – many are now offspring of half or quarter Irish mares.

Douglas and I live just out of Oxford in North Canterbury, on a lifestyle block – although we are not typical lifestyle block farmers as we both have lived and worked on farms all our lives. Home is a 50 acre block of land, which was part of the farm settled by my great great grandfather one hundred years ago. We farm beef cattle and have a Suffolk sheep stud, and of course a few horses. Douglas commutes to Darfield each day where he and his brothers own a sheep and cropping farm, growing lots (and lots) of potatoes and other crops, it is also home to the Drumnacott Riding Pony stud. We have two children, Lachie who is nearly four and Rebecca who is 18 months old – so I guess we will soon be looking for a learners pony!

New Members

Welcome to the following new members:

P Turner, South Canterbury

Mrs J Forrester, Dunedin

J Hulse, Papakura

I Wilson, Methven

L Taylor, Taupo

Y Barton, Kaiapi

Irish Hunt Day

The Christchurch Hunt Club is again holding an Irish Hunt day. This year it will be held on 1st May at Mt Torlesse – don't miss it. Ring Bevan Souness 03 318 1615 (evenings) for further details and directions.



For Sale



"Glengarriff"

164cm part Irish Hunter gelding, 11 years, straight movement, sound, drug free, needs little work. Exceptional temperament. Loves being pampered and going to shows. Champion Saddle Hunter, Reserve Hack. Brilliant paced & mannered / Rider Class mount. Done pre-training ODE, SJ, PC, Dressage & Hunted. My dream horse is only for sale due to business commitments. \$15,000 negotiable to special home. Phone 07 827 9994 or 0274 822 813 Cambridge.

Correction



Eireann Boonooka winner of the Shamrock Sash at Canterbury A & P show in November is jointly owned by Kate Fisher and breeders Anne and the late Thady Ryan.

Website**www.irishhorse.org.nz**

Contact Debbie to organise your own breeders/stud page on the society website or to advertise a "For Sale / Wanted". Rates: Breeders / Stud page \$48/yr (to the Society) + set up / alterations charges to Horsetalk. For Sale advertising \$30 / 3 months with photo and text.

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Next newsletter deadline: 1st August 2005