



NZ Clydesdale Horse Society Inc.

Clydesdale NewZ

December 2024



A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

December 2024



Hello Members,

I have already expressed my, and the Society's, condolences to Erin and to Colin's family in a separate newsletter so will now do my normal President's report.

Firstly, I would like to welcome Jamie Sugden aboard as our new Secretary.

I hope the season is treating you well.

To all of you who had mares to foal I trust you had a good outcome. I understand that it doesn't always go our way unfortunately. I would also like to think your mares got back in foal as well.

It has been quite a good season with plenty of tucker around.

It was very pleasing to see the shows that have added Clydesdale classes to their schedules and have consequently been well patronised.

To all of you who have been showing your horses or just out and about with them or even doing stuff at home, keep up the good work.

I hope you had a good Christmas, and I wish you all the best for a Happy New Year.

Be safe out there.

Kind Regards

Your President,

Steve Muggeridge
Taungatara Clydesdales

From the Editor

I hope you enjoy my annual Clydesdale NewZ. I have repeated some AGM items from the June 2024 newsletter. Most of the photos were taken by me or my husband Warwick Potts unless otherwise stated.

Thanks to those who have taken the time to contribute. It makes the job easy, but an awareness of my time would be good as I compile two other newsletters that go out in December. This was supposed to be a pre-Christmas newsletter!

Cheers
Helen McKenzie

Front cover photo:

L - R. Waimeha Kereru & daughters, Ashburn Dan's Simmone, Ashburn Dan's Danielle & Ashburn Dan's Keri.
Dec. 1984



FROM THE SECRETARY:

Hi, I'm Jamie Sugden, the new NZCHS Secretary.

For those that don't know me I live in Maxwell, just out of Wanganui, on our dairy farm and we have around 20 Clydesdales. We enjoy breeding, working and showing so if you see me out and about, please come and introduce yourself! It's always good to put faces to names!

I'd like to thank everyone who's helped me take on this new role and especially for the members' patience while I navigate and catch up. I think I've caught up on most things now, so if there's any correspondence you have that's outstanding, please contact me at secretary@clydesdale.org.nz

I look forward to the AGM in New Plymouth next year. I'll get out an email with the details shortly after Christmas, but pencil in Friday 6th, Saturday 7th and Sunday 8th of June. We will be staying at the Devon Hotel, 390 Devon Street East, Strandon, New Plymouth with a buffet dinner at Marbles Restaurant, also part of the Devon.

I hope everyone had a safe and Happy Christmas and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Jamie

Key dates:

Annual Membership was due by 30th September!

Stallion Return due by: 30th April annually.

Horse Registration due by: 31st July post foaling

The Society has studbooks for sale, with now limited supply of some volumes. Volume 36 to 41 and some other older volumes are available with discount for multiple purchases. Please send me your orders, local show entry forms, results, and photos.

OBITUARY

Colin James Drummond

31 March 1958 - 11 December 2024.

(Thanks to Sue Butterick Kent for this report & photos)

Died after a brief but ferocious illness. Father of Kelly Allan and James Calder (Marlborough) and Jamie Drummond (Australia). Grandfather of Toby, Freddy and Joseph.

The service was held at Erewhon Station. "A true high-country man, who's finished his toughest top mustering beat" *(quote from the newspaper)*.



‘Colin served as the Mid Canterbury representative on the Federated Farmers High Country section for five years.’ The above photo and short item are from the Federated Farmers Friday Flash newsletter. [Editor]

It was a good turnout, with people from all over NZ attending. Everyone was dressed in the clothes they wear to the Christchurch show, i.e. collar, tie, stockman's hat, jacket etc.



Erin drove a team of 5 with the coffin and 4 dogs up and over the hill to a beautiful spot overlooking the river and mountains (the place where they married). Steve Muggeridge drove the other waggon. Duncan Cottle slipped up and took the reins from Erin for the service. Musterers and Steve Huston the horse breaker, were the Pall bearers. Colin's daughter, Kelly, spoke very, very well, followed by 4 other

speakers (two could imitate Colin well and caused a few laughs). He is buried there, in front of a huge boulder the biggest head stone anyone could wish for.



The service was officiated by Phil Hooper, (radio announcer) and run by Memories funeral director who supplied a very clear sound system, music, booklets, chairs for those who couldn't sit on the hillside.

Wild Lupins and 2 very worn horseshoes were on the coffin. Everyone congregated back at the woolshed for eats, drinks and lots of chatter. A really good sendoff.

A Bit of History from the Simmon's files



▲ Paul Power in the sledge driving Braeburn Jessica at the 1980 Kirwee show. Photo: Viv Simmons

2024 CLYDESDALE AGM & TOUR ASHBURTON

The meeting was held at Hotel Ashburton, 24th May. The usual crowd turned up on the night prior to gather for a pre-meeting catch up. It is always great to meet up again, with the usual comment being "It can't be a year since last time!"



Predinner drinks: L-R David & Barbara Walker, Bruce & Carol Signal, Kathy & Ian Cummings



L- R Fred Pilling, Ian & Kathy Cummings, Carys (Fred's partner & Hillary Milne



Waiting for dinner

Friday began with the Council Meeting opening at 8.30am. The AGM opened at 1.30pm. See Minutes for formal record. Helen McKenzie & Bruce Signal retired from council.

Notes below are from the NZCHS newsletter for 16 June 2024.

Vivienne Simmons was awarded the special one-off Royal Agricultural Society Commemorative Centennial Medal. Vivienne is a great ambassador of the breed being the current Clydesdale Section convener at Morrinsville Show, a current Senior Clydesdale horse judge, a past NZCH Society Secretary, a past NZCH Society President, a current Councillor, and current Clydesdale breeder.



Gareth Pryce, Vivienne Simmons and current NZCHS President Steve Mugeridge. Photo: Gareth Pryce

Society Silver Medals for the best yearling or two year old colt or filly bred by the exhibitor at the major show in the North and South Islands was awarded to:

2023 Erewhon Station, filly Erewhon Wendy at the New Zealand Agricultural Show

2024 J Sugden & L Jenkins, filly Camden Bonnie at the New Zealand Clydesdale Championships.

Society Gold Medals for the Supreme Champion Clydesdale at the New Zealand Clydesdale Championships was awarded to:

2023 A & M Vliet Vlieland, stallion Goldenlane George

2024 G & J Pryce, mare Blackwood Jade

Breeders Gold Medal for the breeder who has bred and exhibited three different Champion mares at the two major shows, one in the North Island and one in the South Island, was awarded to:

G & J Pryce (Blackwood Clydesdales) for mares:

2016 Blackwood Laura, Supreme Champion, North Island Clydesdale Championships.

2020 Blackwood Julia, Supreme Champion, North Island Clydesdale Championships

2024 Blackwood Jade, Supreme Champion, New Zealand Clydesdale Championships



The AGM turnout of members was the biggest for many years.

Once the AGM finished, it was a case of adjourn to the bar or one's room to relax until the Annual Dinner buffet at 7pm.



Foreground L. Sue Butterick-Kent, R. Sadie ?



L. Emma Brockhurst & Hillary Milne



L. Australian judge Tony Riley who spoke at the Erewhon Fielday on judging and breed character, R. John Booth

Saturday 25th June

After breakfast we gathered at 8.30am for a day of seeing some of Ashburton's local attractions. We began with a visit to a local seed processing plant, Luisetti Seeds, which also have a plant in Rangiora. It was a most interesting visit seeing the steps that the seeds go through to be cleaned and bagged for export and local use. A huge enterprise.



Photo: Hillary Milne



Looking over some of the cleaned seed. ▲



The next visit was to the Ashburton Aviation Museum sited at the airport. They have over 40 aircraft on display, along with the control tower which may be entered and a flight simulator.



▲ The old Control tower, Warwick Potts, Hillary Milne & Viv Simmons ready to climb up.



▲ Inside the control tower

Photo: Hillary Milne



▲ Warwick Potts checks out the Aermacchi MB339 – CBNZ 6464

In the future the Museum owners hope to expand their buildings and premises to allow the collection to grow. It is a very user-friendly museum with some exhibits able to be touched and not behind ropes as in many museums.



Harvard in RNZAF colours

Photo: Hillary Milne

From the Air Museum we left for Mt Somers and a visit to a car restoration company. They do vintage, veteran and more modern cars, makes such as Rolls Royce, Bentley and Mercedes. The firm is highly thought of internationally and has cars sent over to it from the USA and other countries. The USA apparently does very good bodywork restoration but not so good on the mechanical restoration.



▲ Some of the vehicles. Sue Butterick Kent on far right.

Photo: Hillary Milne



▲ Alister Stevens, who kindly arranged the visit to the cars.



▲ L-R Emma Kent, Bruce & Carol Signal check out some more modern vehicles.



▲ Engine open to inspection



▲ 1922 Rolls Royce



Fabulous autumn colours of the weeping willows outside the workshop.

From Mt Somers it was off on the scenic drive to Erewhon Station. Some of us were staying at Erewhon and others at the adjacent Mt Potts station. Dinner was to be at Erewhon's beautifully renovated hut.



▲ On the way to Erewhon



▲ The old stables at Mount Potts Station

Photo: Hillary Milne



▲ Waiting on dinner at the hut. The fire was going and the cook had dinner under control. Good company.





⤴ Morning scene travelling from Mt Potts to Erewhon



⤴ Erin heading toward the wagon with some spare items



⤴ The welcoming committee!



⤴ First team on the way with six horses up, Colin at the reins.



⤴ The first team ready to pick up passengers for a drive.



⤴ Second team with Erin driving head out



⤴ The second team are ready and waiting.



⤴ Third team head out.

The NZ Agricultural Show, Christchurch,

14-15 November 2024, Results

Judge: Paul Power

Best Presented Clydesdale Horse and Handler (3)

1. Alan Vliet Vlieland, Goldenlane George
2. Corey Woodward, Donnybrook Silverdale
3. Jaime Winter, Glen Lie May

Entire Horse, 3 yrs and over (1)

1. Alan Vliet Vlieland, Goldenlane George

Colt, 2 yr old (1) Scratched

Colt, Yearling (1) Scratched

Champion Entire Clydesdale:

Alan Vliet Vlieland, Goldenlane George

Brood Mare 3 yrs and over, foal at foot or in foal, due before 31 Jan. (1)

1. Erewhon Station, Ardgour Braes Jeannie

Mare, not in foal in current show season, 4 yrs and over (4)

1. Erewhon Station, Donnybrook Adele
2. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Miley
3. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Kara

Mare, 3 yr old (1) Scratched

Filly, 2 yr old (1)

1. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Willow

Filly, Yearling (5)

1. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Wilma
2. Jaime Winter, Glen Lie May
3. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Tyra
4. Stacey Woodward, Kings Forest Maple

Champion Clydesdale Mare or Filly:

Erewhon Station, Donnybrook Adele

Reserve champion Mare or Filly:

Erewhon Station, Ardgour Braes Jeannie

L-R Champion & Reserve mares as immediately above. ▼



SUPREME CHAMPION CLYDESDALE: Alan Vliet Vlieland, Goldenlane George



Picture from NZCHS show results page.

Best Yearling or 2 yr old, Colt or Filly, bred by exhibitor (7)

1. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Willow
2. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Wilma
3. Jaime Winter, Glen Lie May
4. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Tyra

Gelding any age (6)

1. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Ben
2. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Andy
3. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Ritchie

Best Walking Clydesdale (9)

1. Erewhon Station, Donnybrook Adele
2. Erewhon Station, Ardgour Braes Jeannie
3. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Miley
4. Jaime Winter, Glen Lie May

Pair of Females, any age, must compete in other classes (3)

1. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Kara
2. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Willow

Best Groomed and Decorated Clydesdale, to be shown in harness (0)

Long Reining (1) Scratched

Clydesdale Ridden on flat – to include an Obstacle course (11)

Pairs

1. Erewhon Kara and Erewhon Heath
2. Erewhon Max and Donnybrook Silverdale
3. Erewhon Ben and Erewhon Andy
4. Erewhon Ritchie and Erewhon Ash

Single:

1. Erewhon Kara
2. Erewhon Ritchie
3. Erewhon Ash
4. Erewhon Andy
- 5= Erewhon Ben and Erewhon Heath
- 5= Cory Woodward, Donnybrook Silverdale

Clydesdale Pairs Sledge Driving (3)

1. Erewhon Ben & ?
2. Erewhon Max & Andy
3. Erewhon Kara & Ritchie (Erin driving)

Single Horse Sledge Driving (11)

1. Erewhon Ash
 2. Erewhon Max
 3. Erewhon Kara
 4. Erewhon Ben
 5. Stacey Woodward, Donnybrook Silverdale
 6. Erewhon Andy
 7. Erewhon Ritchie
- Cory Woodward, Erewhon Odin (did not complete)

Log Skidding (8)

1. Erewhon Andy
2. Erewhon Kara
3. Cory Woodward, Donnybrook Silverdale
4. Erewhon Ben
5. Erewhon Max
6. Erewhon Ash

Clydesdale Waggon Harness – Single Horse in a wheeled vehicle (2)

1. Cory Woodward, Donnybrook Silverdale

Pair of Horses or three abreast in a wheeled vehicle (1) scratched

Team of horses, two or more rows in a wheeled vehicle (2)

1. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Kara's team of 5 horses (Colin)
2. Erewhon Station, Erewhon Andy's team of 5 horses. (Erin)

High Points Gelding Clydesdale, points to be added over two days showing: ***Erewhon Ben***



Our senior Clydesdale judge, Emma Brockhurst's daughters L-R Libby, Amelia and Charlotte Brockhurst at the NZ Agricultural show, all riding side saddle. They are also Sue Butterick Kent's granddaughters. [Great to see this tradition carrying on. Editor]

MANAWATU MILITARY TATTOO EXPERIENCE FOR IAN & KATHY CUMMINGS

Contributed by Kathy Cummings



Back in July, we were asked ‘could we bring our horses down to Feilding and take part in an indoor, night event with the Coach House stagecoach?’

‘Possibly’ we said. A very big ask for us and our boys but ‘we will keep in touch’.

Months later – practise, practise, practise and then more. Horses being harnessed and fed with background music – opera, bag pipes, brass band, and racing.

We found an indoor arena that allowed us to bring our horses and wagon. Practising going outside to indoors, mirrors and a different surface under foot.

We hoped we hadn’t missed anything. A few more walk overs with a mat covering it and we have it sorted.



More months later – Saturday walk- through before the night show. Oops, that plastic bridge is covering the power cables – just be like Barney – walk over it



So, here we are, all harnessed in the dark and the rain waiting for our cue.

Time – Ian drove our guys and the stagecoach from the dark into the bright lights. Stopped for the huge applause and on

cue took the stagecoach off stage. What a thrill and so proud of Logan and Barney.



12 Months in The Life Of My Horses

News from Fred Pilling – 23 November 2024.

I took 3 horses to a shoeing competition just before Christmas. Ian and Kathy Cummings were there with their 2 geldings. My horses played up, but they got shoes on them. Young men can handle big horses. Ian and Kathy won the competition which was held at the Taupo horse complex.

I got home and took Suzan and Eve around to David Wildes stallion, Kia Kaha King. He only lives 7 km down the road from me. I left them there for 2 months. I picked them up on the 10/02/24. I didn't get them vetted, too mean!

I had been asked to give a demonstration of horse ploughing at the NZ National Ploughing Championships in April, which were being held just down the road from me. I had modified a lever plough by putting a seat on it which I didn't use because it was on the main beam and should have been on the left side of the beam. I will modify it.

The ground was terribly muddy. There were 3 teams from the South Island: Sean and Partner; Dayboo had 2 teams; Ian and Kathy, and me. Sean came in 1st and Dayboo 2nd and 3rd. Ian and Kathy gave a demonstration because of a mix-up with their qualifying.

We did OK. Susan and Eve did well. They had not ploughed properly before. Cody, my grandson, steered the plough until

Ross Wilson arrived and we got the team going well. Sunday was a similar day, with Viv Simmons steering the plough until Ross arrived and we got the team going well again.

Then it was waiting time through winter. One sad point in October, I had to put David, my stallion, down. He had a cancerous growth on his sheath. He was 20 years old.



▲ Fellbeck Sir David, by Fellbeck Thomas out of Sugar Creek Maria van Rooyen. Thomas was by Ashburn Murray's Pride.

In the meantime, Susan was blowing up like a barrage balloon and on the 15/11/24 produced a nice filly foal. Trust me to be in hospital!

Fred Pilling

FEATURE MARE

WAIMEHA KERERU

10650 Volume 30 Foaled 21 October 1967
Bred by Sisam and Sons, Whakatane



Black, white hairs, broad blaze. Lower half of head black, spots on nose. Fore legs white to above knees, hind legs to below hocks and up stifles in front.

Sire: Greendale Leon (4616) Vol 30

1st Dam: Waimeha Tui (10520) Vol 28

George Simmons purchased this mare 20 February 1973 for his Ashburn Stud. Kereru's stable name was Tui. She was broken to work as a single, pair, teams, and in every vehicle and implement. She was valuable for helping train young horses and new drivers.

A tall, free going horse, she was a great leader yet steady enough to mould up the potatoes as a single in the scarifier. Although not a horse to be super-friendly or fussed over she had a great bond with George. He would walk out and just shout "WHOA TUI" to catch her and she would look down that majestic, slightly Roman nose and stop. As a broodmare she has left a lasting legacy, which can be traced back through the stud book to today's studs and showing.

George had purchased Donnybrook Daniel O'Connell (4539) Vol 28, on 2 November 1970 as a 15year old. His sire was Croydon (4108) Vol 21 out of Salome (10292) Vol 26. This proved to be a very successful cross of bloodlines.



Her first foal by D. Daniel O'Connell was born 14/1/74. **Ashburn MacGowen O'Brooks, a colt.** ▼



10/9/75 Ashburn Dans Simone. She was sold to the Clydesdale Agricultural Museum and bred 6 foals. She won many Championships for the museum under the care of Mac Moon, and also gave many wagon rides to public. ▼



8/9/76 Ashburn Dans Keri. Bred 8 foals, one of these being Ashburn Bardrill Sensation. This colt was sold to Hawkins/Dalzell partnership. ▼



29/9/77 Ashburn Danielle who bred 11 foals. Ashburn Murrays Pride was by Tokomairiro Enterprise out of Danielle. Murray was a very influential stallion who shuttled

down to the South Island and was stood by both Fergus O'Connor and Kevin Gillman. Danielle also had an outstanding filly, Dale, by Tokomairiro Enterprise which we lost in a most unfortunate paddock accident as a two-year-old. ✓



12/10/78 Ashburn Dundee's Benjamin, Colt by Ben Alder Dundee ✓



11/10/80 Ashburn Silver Kent, Colt by Silver Lining

(No photo available)

5/11/81 Ashburn O'Connors Kathleen by Aarunga Duke. Kathleen had 7 foals of which the descendants are still in my paddocks today. Steve Muggeridge purchased a colt, Ashburn Sensational Supreme, another influential stallion which was used widely. ✓



After this great run of foals, Tui never bred again. With the limited knowledge and equipment of the era nothing more could be done to get her in foal again. Tui still served her time as Auntie and Granny to foals at weaning time and as a reliable workhorse and teacher. She died 2 May 1990. Tui was my valued Tutor.

As with any stud you sell colts and fillies, sometimes regretting the fillies you sell when you have an excess of them because before long you have a run of colts, a few mishaps or deaths and end up short of fillies for yourself. Not all the foals survived from the descendants, but those surviving have seemingly crossed well.

I have the pleasure of seeing these results in the show ring and the work horses around the country today and I am sure George would be very proud and pleased with his horses. He passed 21 years ago, 17 January 2004.

Breeding horses has its trials, tribulations and successes. We had premature foals, slips, naval ill cases, haemorrhaging blood vessels as a yearling or at a foaling, dummy foals, accidents, and one with a faulty heart valve and orphan foals to rear. As a stud breeder there are any number of things that can go wrong.

We were fortunate to have had access to very good veterinarians. One in particular, Harry Dewes, and later Len Smith, Murray Bertram, and Doug Black. Once we had served the mares, we had to wait for the 21 days to try the mares to the stallion and if they did not show they were presumed in foal. Vetted at 6 weeks, Harry would come out and manually test the mare for the pregnancy. Harry was pretty accurate as he had been a long time on the job and bubbled with enthusiasm. He did a huge amount of research on minerals, the importance of selenium and zinc, especially the link to selenium and mares or cows cleaning after the birth. Sometimes it was disappointing at 6 weeks, no pregnancy, a loss of the foetus. There were very limited ways of treating; sometimes flushing or a Prostaglandin injection and start again.

Time, research and technology have moved on, and exciting things happened later when we could scan mares at 18 days. We used a long extension cord to a big screen which sat on a drum with an umbrella over the top. Now fluid can be removed from the uterus, AI can be done.

A two day course in horse breeding was given by Lee Morris and her mentor Tinks, (sorry cannot find his surname). They had worked together in the USA on equine breeding research. It was about all the advancements in breeding horses, techniques, using fresh or frozen semen, embryo transplants, split embryos.

Breeders today have a head start on what we had available. Our work was all done in the paddock on farm and was often a bit unconventional. Whilst visiting, the odd cat was neutered over the bonnet of Harry's Mercedes. No equine hospital. There was a lot of cold hard reality learning. I loved



and appreciated the knowledge and care that Harry and his team of vets imparted. Harry was a legend.

◀ *Harry in action heating the irons ready to brand.*

Photo: V Simmons



Ashburn Bardill Sensation ▲

Photo: B Thompson

Taken at Christchurch show in 1996. He is 11 years of age in the photo. Sired by Tokomairiro Enterprise, out of Ashburn Dan's Keri.

Bard sired 23 registered colts and 18 registered fillies.



▲ *Fenview O'Connor's Dale (Aarunga Duke x Ashburn Dan's Danielle) nearside., held by Dean Simmons. Ashburn O'Connors Kathleen next to her.*

Photo: V Simmons



Fieldays Moonglow by Ben Alder Dundee out of Ashburn Dan's Simone. Taken at 2002 AGM at Levin. Murray Doreen owner and driver.



Ashburn Murray's Pride ▲

By Tokomairiro Enterprise out of Ashburn Dan's Danielle. Photo at Waikato Royal Show, 2000. He was 9 years of age in this photo.

He was the Supreme Champion Clydesdale, judged by an Australian judge.

Over his stud career Murray sired 19 registered colts and 28 registered fillies.



Waimeha Kereru (Offside) & Sweetheart give rides at Gordonton School gala. George Simmons driving. Background is Jack Morgan with Ben & Mary Anne in the sledge.

FEATURE STALLION

HIGHLAND LADDIE & Other Reminiscences

by Sue Butterick-Kent, Wakanui.



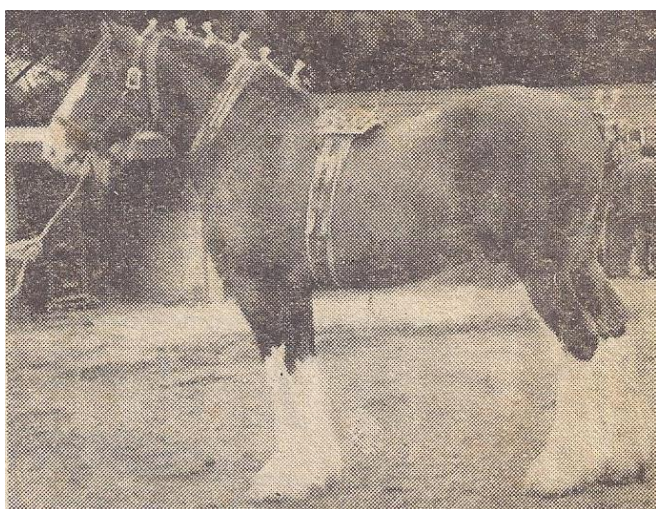
Susan Butterick with **Highland Laddie** at Timaru show in 1966.

Note the grooming and finish on his legs – a lost art nowadays.

Bred by C.T. McCallum, Bath Farm, Waikouaiti, Otago.
Born: 27th November 1961 and he died in his 20's at Viv and George Simmons' farm, in the Waikato.

Sire: Donnybrook Castle Island, by Croydon and out of Sunshine.

Dam: May Mist by Adonis and out of Duchess of Edinburgh



Adonis, sire of May Mist. ^

In those days, Charlie McCallum still worked his dairy farm, bred good Clydesdales and showed them as well. The youngsters lived in groups on the hillside, running and grazing. For their early shows they were rounded up and driven loose to the nearest railway siding (Goodwood) and

boarded a train to wherever. Their grooms had a small compartment on the train, too... although for Christchurch some of the men travelled by car from different directions.

During the early 1960's, I remember seeing them at the siding beside Christchurch's Addington Showgrounds, the horses travelled in what the railway called Elephant boxes. The youngsters were caught, haltered and led off to the concrete washstands, tied up and a hose played on their legs. A good display of kicking was seen until they settled down then they were led to a concrete box with a straw bed against the Addington Raceway. Generally, there were 2 youngsters in together and not much room to spare. This was Highland Laddie's experience, along with his mate, Gay Allison and maybe an older colt.

Charlie had a way with men and those men had a way with horses. Between all this, I was tucked under Charlie's wing and encouraged to help and learn by brushing the mares (especially the future champion), watching the 'best mare' getting her mane plaited with raffia, and holding at the edge of the ring. In those days, the Christchurch show had a ditch on the inside of the ringfence (I presume for drainage) but I had to be careful while holding a nervous or excited horse that I didn't get pushed into this ditch. That nearly happened when the 'good mare' I was holding spun as an aeroplane flew over the show ring, however one of the experienced grooms snatched her rope before harm fell on either of us. I was feeling indignant that he thought I needed rescuing but hindsight made me realise the wisdom of it.

In those days there was still a big dormitory behind the grandstand where grooms were accommodated, and every morning breakfast was available for the exhibitors. Mr McCallum, as I called him, would give me a spare ticket and I would line up for sausages, bacon and eggs and whatever was on offer, then back to my duties.

When Highland Laddie returned as a 2 yr-old colt, Charlie and my father (Neal Butterick) had a good chat and came to the conclusion that our team of working horses were wasting and we needed a colt to breed up again – so, "How about this young colt? Take him home after the Show". This wasn't easy before modern cell phones. Dad found a transport firm who could contact Burnetts Motors and arrange for a lorry on Friday afternoon, to take him to his new home. I was quite nervous around him, he was lively, nearly chased me out of the paddock when I dropped hay and ran circles around me as I tried to lead him. "Oh, I had a lot to learn".

Persistence, time and distance were the answers.

At the 1964 Christchurch Show, a young, lean mare appeared. Charlie had sold her to Ray Barwell who hadn't paid for her, so she was offered to Dad (more or less as a rescue job). This was "**Shandy**". Unknown at that time, she was already in foal but still had a lot of growing and filling out to do...poor thing. What an asset she turned out to be, many foals and Championships she achieved. As Mr Gibb said, "She never stood wrong".

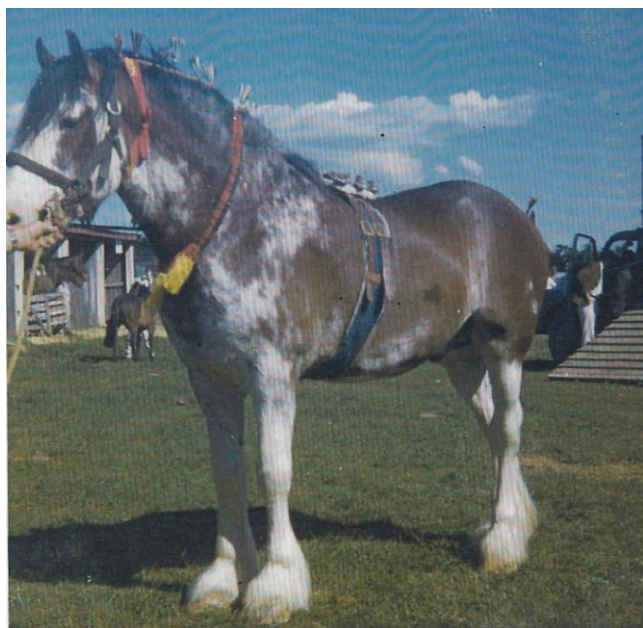
Once **Shandy** foaled, I had to learn by myself, how to teach a mare and foal to lead. I was mainly on my own and discovered - the earlier, the easier. By observing **Shandy**, I realised I needed to keep contact with the foal, my leg beside his shoulder, my arm over his neck and we created a great warmth together! I discovered that if he rushed forward, I simply placed weight on his wither and he settled. By keeping that close touch, it was easy until the foal grew to about 3 months old and he turned into a teenager wanting his own way, using swift sideways kicks. Amazing how agile they are and so much stronger.

In 1966 at the Royal Show, I exhibited my first horse in my own name, and it was Shandy's foal. There is quite a story behind him, "**Glen Mist**". Ray Barwell declared and signed papers saying he was by **Maxwelton Superb** but between entering for the Show in September and the actual show in November, he was developing a very roan colour. People along with us, starting asking questions but Barwell continued to declare he told the truth... hmmm. It took several years and a lot of help from others to dig out the truth which finally came to light at the Invercargill Show years later ... she had been running with an Arab stallion and along with many other people, we had been duped! So much for the start of my showing career.

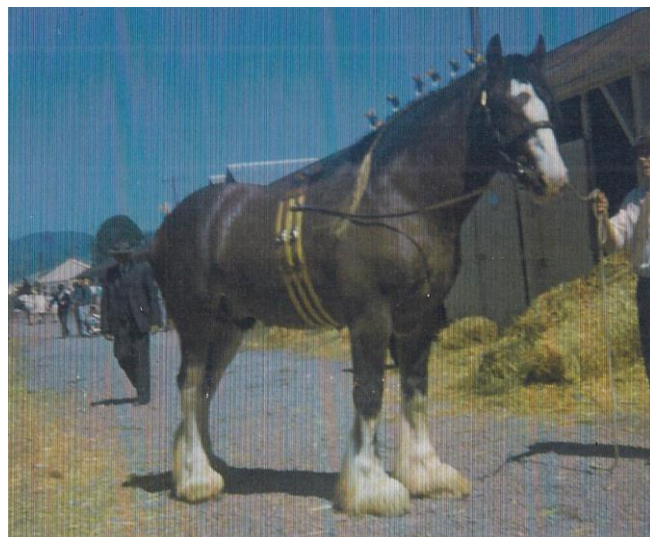
On the positive side, Christchurch show was a great experience. That year the adult stallions were **Doura Select** whom Brian Sutton brought down from Te Puki; **Maxwelton Gowan Brae** Jim Cooper brought up from Merino Downs, Southland; Charlie McCallum had **Donside Hamish** (Imp) and Fergus O'Connor had **Valmont McLeod** (Imp). Both these stallions had come from Australia.

As well there were three 2-year-old colts and 4 yearling colts. Nine Mares and 11 fillies which came from Nelson and Otago, also Logans and Cooper brought some from Southland.

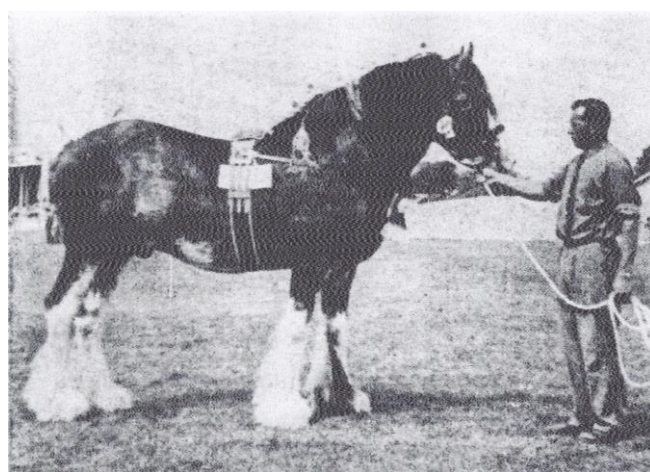
Competition was tough in those days.



Donside Hamish Rangiora Centennial Show 1966 ▲



Valmont MacLeod Christchurch Show 1965 ▲



Doura Select ▲

As it came closer to the time to show **Highland Laddie**, the old Scottish grooms and stallion men came regularly with helpful tips to prepare us. Leading him at a walk and trot alongside fences and holding a long stick to keep him straight, back by the shoulder and allowing his head free enough to carry himself. He learnt to keep my right arm or hand at his shoulder to know where I was and pay attention to my left hand to direct him during turns. He learnt to go straight, to slow, stop, pivot on his hind legs and cross the front as he turned, to pause while I lined up the judge and aimed for his right shoulder, then trot forward. We practised for miles along roads, farm tracks, sides of paddocks and then he learnt to lunge keeping a steady forward movement and good rhythm. We used railway sleepers along the side of one fence and he lunged over them. Once we got to Christchurch show, I lunged him in the Exercise ring every evening and was surprised how many people came to watch. He also learned to shift the required leg back or forwards with a tweak on his bit, it took training and persistence to achieve that.

Preparing for the Show season, he was boxed each night for 3 months prior, got his shoes on which was a chore too. Originally, he was floated out to the Smithy at Rakaia where hundreds of teams were shod over the years. Then the Smithy was sold so we travelled to the nearby farm of John Baxter and met the farrier, Tom Gaylor there. His shoes were custom

made and took hours to put on because Tommy took great pride in his work, and it had to be exactly right. We imported size 12 nails to use. Then after shoeing, Highland Laddie refused to load and insisted on trotting along the tar seal for several miles until he felt ready for his ride. Later Mum drove to Rakaia to collect the farrier, fed him and returned him when all was finished.

The Christchurch Show was caring in those days, from Miss Poff in the office who knew exhibitors by name, Mr Doak who looked after the boxes and cared for the horse exhibitors, the exhibitors themselves who slept in spare boxes, tents or cabins and not hidden, unobtainable, inside closed caravans or trucks and the dog handlers, who patrolled the grounds. We could always meet people in the communal kitchen while we sat polishing buckles and washing tail ribbons for the next day. We walked Highland Laddie around the grounds, looking at machinery, sheep, side shows – everywhere except the Pig Pavilion. I was always safe with him by my side, people chatted and were interested.

Clydesdale alley with its concrete and wooden boxes backed onto the Raceway and stalls across the alley that housed donkeys, ponies or whatever, were eventually filled in to become boxes. We could request the boxes we wanted, and Mr Doak always checked that all was OK. For many years I took Shandy and her little foals. Mr Doak supplied hurdles and stakes to enlarge the double-door box into a yard and the crowd just flocked to see the foal (sometimes 8 or so deep). On Friday there was a steady stream of people passing through on their way to the Racecourse to watch the ‘big race’ and back again afterwards. Very big crowds.

Later, there was an arrangement between the 2 venues for the Champions to go through and parade along the Home Straight; an elitist opportunity and done with great pride. When I started showing, Burnetts Motors collected my horses, early afternoon on Tuesday because my regular driver (Bruce Addis) always sat in his truck alongside the boundary fence and watched the big Trotting Cup in comfort. I arrived in time to help unload as he drove down Clydesdale Alley and dropped off my stuff... 4 sacks of chaff and 1 of bran, bales of hay, sawdust, suitcase of gear, box of harness (the box originally belonged to Andrew Grant), buckets and all but the kitchen sink! I always had a spare loose box for the gear and for Mr Gibb who slept in it. Both Charlie and Fergus had spare boxes but Fergus and his helpers including Keith Heiney slept in his, amongst the chaff sacks and covers.

However, exhibiting became harder work as the grounds filled, parking became very hard, and many were forced onto the road just to walk back into the grounds after offloading. A dirt ring was made where parking used to be and the Nor west winds blew across that ground until we all ate dirt and burnt.

The Canterbury Clydesdale Club were fortunate to be allocated the old concrete bar as a base and had a wonderful time in it; Joan Dalzell supplied a lot of food and others

supplied the liquid entertainment. A base is so important for exhibitors, friends and family... a shelter and a meeting point.

As the show became bigger and it became more ‘tooth and nail’, it was run as a business and became less caring. Then came the change of grounds, promises not kept, making it not easy. No grandstand is a big loss. The banks are not as easy to negotiate and the seats at the top of the bank are generally filled with teenagers while adults stand on the bank. Disabled parking is nowhere near ringside, unlike in the old grounds.

I would love to have Highland Laddie back and take to Christchurch – he enjoyed shows and was such a character. Each year during the period of being boxed, in the mornings he would pass me his halter, I held it up and he put his head in it. When the Show lorry came, I could throw the lead rope over his wither and he trotted off across the yard, through a gate, up the loading bank and loaded himself. The horses travelled alternating head and tail across the pens and Highland Laddie was always happy to be surrounded by his family. Unlike Fergus O’Connor, we never needed a sack over his head while travelling.

For 4 years Dad and I drove to Dunedin for their Otago Show in January. We boxed the horses (usually took the stallion and a youngster), then we settled to sleep somewhere. We tried a loose box (too many holes in the roof and walls) and finally went to the Sheep Pavilion which was in much better condition than the old Clydesdale boxes. Charlie McCallum, Jim Logan, Jim Cooper, Hugh Hamilton, Bert Court and other local owners with part drafts exhibited. I remember seeing a most wonderful horse there. He was a chestnut Welsh Cob called “Super” and was a very consistent winner in the Harness classes... I chatted with his owner, Duncan McKenzie and hugely admired this horse because he was so special.

In Highland Laddie’s time he always competed against other stallions; sometimes it was tense, with approximately 5 adult stallions in the ring at the same time. It was very hard for me as a female competing against the men and especially with some dour old Judges who didn’t like a female in the Rings, especially one leading a stallion. Today, our exhibitors have no idea what it was like then and now no one thinks twice about it. When I started, my Stallion men who helped me, developed a little rivalry so we took turns being in charge for a day at Christchurch and one day each we lead the stallion in the Grand Parade. That seemed to work. Julie Menary led the foal every year, with its little rope halter and ribbon in the tail to match mum.

With the weather seasons delayed about 2 months nowadays, it is just as well the Clydesdales and their people are a tough breed because the present position on the new grounds is very cold, with a wind coming off the sea. Fortunately, the Canterbury Club are still erecting a tent for shelter and this is huge for the welfare and camaraderie of members, family and friends.

Highland Laddie won Champion Stallion at **Canterbury** 1967/68/69 70 71 ~ Reserve 72 and 73.
Champion at **Ellesmere** 1971/72/73. Champion at **Timaru** 1967/73 and Reserve 1966/69.

North Otago Champion 1969/70 and Reserve 1967/68.

Otago Champion 1971 and Reserve 1966/69.

One of the best wins was at **Ashburton Centennial Show** 1977 when at the age of 16, he won against his own sons.

Those were the days when the Royal came every 5 years and there were no Supreme Championships and no garlands, just felt ribbons that moths got in the end.

Highland Laddie, my favourite horse and on top of all else, he was prepotent, i.e. bred in his like for generations and that can still be seen now!



Rockwood Duke ex Grandview Judy



Mr John Gibb (Scottish stallion man) with **Highland Laddie** at Canterbury Show 1970



Woodside Alice ex Ngapa Rosy

Some progeny of Highland Laddie.



▲ Glen Earl ex Allandale Lady Dawn **Photo:** S Butterick-Kent



Ashburn Laddie's Kelly ex Ashburn Dan's Keri



▲ Glen Epic ex Shandy **Photo:** S. Butterick-Kent



▲ Waihapa Captain's Fleetwood, a grandson of Highland Laddie, by Rockwood Captain ex Rockwood Blossom.

A quote from James Herriot's book, "It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet".

"When did they last do any work?" I asked.

Oh, about twelve years ago, I reckon."

I stared at John. "Twelve years! And have they been down here all that time?"

"Aye, just lakin' about down here, retired like. They've earned it and all." For a few moments he stood silent, shoulders hunched, hands deep in the pockets of his coat, then he spoke quietly as if to himself. "They were two slaves when I was a slave." He turned and looked at me and for a revealing moment I read in the pale blue eyes something of the agony and struggle he had shared with the animals...

Yet what made him trail down that hillside every day in all weathers? Why had he filled the last years of those two old horses with peace and beauty?

Why had he given them a final ease and comfort which he had withheld from himself?

It could only be love.

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▲ Julie Menary leading **Glen Genie**, in Christchurch Show's Grand Parade, 1974. **Photo:** Sue Butterick-Kent



A few laughs from 2017. I remember the outcry over the discovery that horsemeat had been found in meat supplies. Not sure how it is that people come up with them so quickly. Editor

In the UK, several supermarkets have admitted that there is horse meat in their home cook burgers. Even places like Burger King have had to admit that there are 'small amounts' (yeah of course - just a small amount) of horse meat in their burgers. Tesco is a big supermarket chain in the UK.

Within hours of the news that Tesco's 'all beef hamburgers' contained at least 30% horse meat these quips hit the internet:

I'm so hungry, I could eat a horse.... It's good to see Tesco listening to their customers!

Anyone want a burger from Tesco? Yay or neigh?

Not entirely sure how Tesco are going to get over this hurdle.

Waitress in Tesco asked if I wanted anything on my Burger - so I had £5 each way!

Had some burgers from Tesco for my tea last night ... I still have a bit between my teeth.

A woman has been taken into hospital after eating horse meat burgers from Tesco. Her condition is said to be stable.

Tesco are now testing all their vegetarian burgers for traces of unicorn.

"I've just checked the Tesco burgers in my freezer ... AND THEY'RE OFF."

Tesco now forced to deny presence of zebra in burgers, as shoppers confuse barcodes for serving suggestions.

Said to the missus, These Tesco burgers give me the trots....
"To beef or not to beef, that is equestrian."

I hear the smaller version of those Tesco burgers make great horse's d'oeuvres.

These Tesco burger jokes are going on a bit... talk about flogging a dead horse!

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Fred Pilling shows off his English harness on Ashburn O'Connor's Kathleen, AGM Waikato 1998.