



Clydesdale NewZ, December 2017

A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

December 2017

Hello All



Recently we lost a very loyal and enthusiastic member of our Society, KEVIN GILLMAN.

Kevin was a keen advocate of the Clydesdale horse being a breeder, teamster, Councillor and Past President of our Society. He was a hard worker and responsible for the organising and setting up of the Clydesdale Area at the Canterbury Show. Kevin and his wife Sue ran a business involving wagon treks and hosting events including some of our field days. Always a hard worker and frankly spoken person, Kevin will be missed greatly and our deepest and sincere condolences go to Sue and family.

There is a more in depth article about Kevin in this newsletter.



WAR HORSE MEMORIAL

On Armistice Day 11 November 2017 The War Horse Memorial was unveiled in Memorial Park Hamilton nearby to the Cenotaph.

Years of thoughtful work had gone into the planning; the Council approval; a tussle with another group who had wanted to put up a modernistic version; the fund raising; the commissioning of the statue, and the organisation of an event named the MANE EVENT as a day for people to come and join in, or just enjoy the various horse activities and finally of course, the unveiling.

Fred Pilling had a vision that it would be a fitting tribute to harness up some Clydesdales to an authentic gun for the displays. We were not allowed to have horses in harness or wagons near the other events due to horses getting scared but better still we were invited to parade to the cenotaph.

After much difficulty an Austrian 1916 genuine gun was located and hired. Fred and Gareth Pryce constructed a limber with which to draw the gun and Debby Garner obtained the paint and painted it in the military green. Jacquie Pryce was busy working and feeding horses and painting.

It was originally intended to go completely military style, six horses with postilion riders, military harness and

costumes but the whole thing was fraught with difficulties, and after numerous experiments, some of it only coming together the day before the event it was decided to use the six horses as a pair in the limber and four attached in the blocks being driven. Fred's horses Bonnie and Jude in the pole, Janet and Nicky in the swing and the leaders Charlie and Harry owned by Ross Wilson, and a great asset they were. On the Friday there was another rehearsal with the gun and limber, then packed up and over to the showgrounds for the night. Ross's horses needed shoes on so it was a trip to Ben van der Sande's forge where Ryan got to work on them till Ben arrived. Meanwhile the rest of the team was being bedded down, fed and watered, at the show grounds.

Saturday morning it was up early, horses were fed, washed, harness cleaned, gun and limber given a final polish after Hillary Simmons and daughter Annabelle had done the bulk of it the day before.

A welcome breakfast was delivered to the great team of workers by Melissa and Jake Koia

The plan was to be harnessed by eight o'clock and ready to move off by 9.15. All ran with military precision and ready they were. Fred Pilling and Ross Wilson on the limber at the reins, out walkers Jake Koia, Hillary Simmons, Melissa Koia, Jessica Millar, Jacquie Pryce, Jane Falconer. On the gun ready to fire was Cathy Cummings, Gareth Pryce and myself.

Accompanied by police cars, of which members David Wilde and Debby were seen in the back seat, the Clydesdales led the procession followed by the mounted rifles. All obstacles that could present themselves did. The train went beneath the over bridge just as we got on to it, crowds waved, dogs barked, police car sirens, cars went where they should not have. The horses did very well and were as steady as all doing their bit, only Jude the young horse in the team was a little prancy.

There was a very good turnout at the cenotaph. The statue was shrouded in the New Zealand flag.

The bands played, speeches made and the unveiling took place with all the ceremony it deserved and it brought quite a few tears to the eyes of many people.

Many of us had relatives who went off to the First World War, their farms sent horses off as well; some of the men returned but the horses did not. Only about 4 horses came home.

The procession was escorted back to the show grounds by the military tanks, where the Mane Event took place for the

rest of the day. Visitors were treated to quadrilles, jousting, dressage, western, pony rides, and all manner of horse activities.

The Clydesdales were unharnessed, fed and watered. All those who took part including friends, family, and partners were thrilled with the effort, and delighted with the way the horses performed and the way in which they were received by the crowd. It was inspiring to see everyone working together as a team to make the event so special and a day to be remembered.

We were not there to be a re-enactment of an event but to pay tribute to the men and horses who gave up their lives and horses in order for us to be enjoying what we do today together with our horses and families.

What amazing publicity for the Clydesdale Horse

My apologies for not mentioning every single person connected to the Team Effort.



SHOWS and EVENTS

The season is well under way and thank you to all those who take their Clydesdales out and display them.

My apologies to Helen for being so slow getting this piece written, so do not blame her for the lack of newsletter on time. It was me. The days and weeks roll by far too quickly.

TO YOU ALL - ALL THE BEST FOR THE FESTIVE SEASON.

Cheers

Viv Simmons
President



Ever had one of those moments? Jim & Helen Lowe's Taungatra Cole, with a foot in both camps. (Well, two feet actually!) Safely rescued.

SECRETARY'S SAY:

Annual members your **SUBS WERE DUE OCTOBER 1, 2017.**

Subscription remains at \$50

Direct bank account details as per below: -

ON LINE PAYMENTS

Please ensure that all payments quote your membership name (first name initial and last name) and the payment category eg subs, registration, change owner, stud book etc.

Payee - Clydesdale Horse Society

Bank – ANZ

Account number – 06 0317 0817588 00

NO receipts provided



Volume 40 of the studbook is hot off the press and now available at \$60 including postage. The society is running a special until the 22nd of December for a Volume 39 and 40 combo at \$100 including postage, so get your orders in now on the attached form.

Also for sale the Society is putting out a 2018 calendar with Clydesdale photos from around New Zealand provided by our members. There is a mixture of new and historic photos of interest. We will be doing 2 print runs, taking orders no later than 31st of January 2018, so get your orders in early.



2018 AGM will be held in Hamilton, with the AGM & Councillors Meetings on **Friday June the 8th**. Venue to be advised.

Gareth Pryce
Incoming Secretary

OBITUARY

KEVIN GILLMAN

10-6-1949 - 28-9-2017

The first time I saw Kevin Gillman was at an Oxford vintage machinery show. There was a dense crowd and just above the heads of the people were three Clydesdales abreast coming towards us. People were departing to the sides and here appeared Kevin



with his wagon, giving rides. What most impressed me was the fact that the horses were not worried at all. I had a short conversation with him that day. And he invited me and my wife, Margo, to a practice session. He was training a four horse team with a double furrow plough for a demonstration at the silver plough. When we arrived we were in typical Kevin style roped in and on the day of the demonstration we were busy plating and harnessing horses.

Over the next few years Kevin became somewhat of a mentor to me and a few other younger Clydesdale owners. I spend a lot of my spare time helping him with his tourist business in Cust giving rides in the country side. One day one of his favourite horses Susie escaped from the yard with all the harness on. I wanted to give chase, but Kevin told me to leave her. She walked calmly through all the people. She then parked herself between the shafts of the wagon and looked at Kevin to see where he was. The Japanese tourists thought it was a great trick. All Kevin said was "that went all right."

Some of the bigger treks that the Canterbury Clydesdale Club organised were instigated by Kevin. Big five day treks around the lakes in South Canterbury, were his favourite way to spend time with the horses and likeminded people.

His team of horses, his family and himself were a big part of the Centennial parade through Dunedin in 2011 as part of the celebrations around the 100 years New Zealand Clydesdale Horse Society

Through Kevin and Sue I learned a lot about the contribution of Russell and Joan Dalzell to the Clydesdale breed in New Zealand. In later years I would benefit greatly from the fact that I could buy these bloodlines from Kevin and Sue. One of the highlights of Kevin's breeding career was winning the Christchurch show twice with Millcreek Molly. Another contribution was the selection of a colt he bought from Bill Affleck in Southland called *Mossdale Royal*. Moss left some very impressive off spring.

Kevin's aim was always to promote the Clydesdale Horse, not himself. One of his greatest legacies is the Clydesdale yard at the Christchurch A and P showgrounds. This is now over 15 years old and one of the largest Clydesdale promotions every year in Australasia. All the Australian judges and visitors are always highly impressed by the facility and atmosphere at the Christchurch show.

Besides being a fantastic horseman, he was also a great administrator. He had held the position of President of both the Canterbury Clydesdale Club and of the New Zealand Clydesdale Horse Society.

Over the last few years Kevin took some distance from the Clydesdale world. But he had still a great interest in what was going on. He was also always available for anyone who wanted some advice or tips about training and working Clydesdales.

Till the last day of his life, he had a view of his Clydesdales walking in the paddock, from his house in Cust.

Kevin was a man of great patience with the horses, but not always with human fools.

When he passed away, a mighty tree came crashing down in the forest of the Clydesdale world.

Kevin R.I.P.

Alan Vliet Vlieland

WHITTAKERS RELIVE TRADITION WITH HORSE-DRAWN CHOCOLATE DELIVERY

by *Samantha van der Sande*

It was a great honour to be approached by Whittakers Chocolate and asked to be a special part of the grand launch of their Toffee Milk Chocolate recently. We were asked to provide a horse and driver for their specially-commissioned delivery cart, and provide our services for a launch event to take place in Auckland City.

Wairarapa's Wheelwright Shop had been commissioned to build a traditional delivery cart to be used for the launch and had taken exact measurements of our big Clydesdale gelding, Glen, to ensure a perfect fit. The cart design was based on the type of vehicle used by James Henry Whittaker to distribute chocolate around his Addington home in the 1930s, and had been lovingly constructed using restored parts from an original vehicle. An absolutely beautiful piece of work!

Everything down to Nick's socks had been carefully planned out to perfection, and we found ourselves carrying out various costume fittings to ensure Nick's outfit was as correct and traditional as it could possibly be. The result of horse, harness, driver and cart matched to perfection with the brand's iconic red and white chequered theme was quite simply, resplendent. One could say the turnout brought about a touch of nostalgia and a nod to the company's 90 years of tradition.



On the day of the event we harnessed near the waterfront, put the horse to the vehicle and made our way up Queen Street to Aotea Square where themed promotional staff were handing out sample chocolate to passers-by. The public were able to view the turnout, take photos and sample the new range before

it hit shops the following week. The event attracted a great deal of public and media attention.

Whittaker's assistant marketing manager, Jasmine Currie, said "We're really excited to have the opportunity to engage in-person with some of our loyal Whittaker's Chocolate Lovers to launch this new chocolate that celebrates our history and the enduring appeal of the original Whittaker's Toffee Milk toffees among New Zealanders for nearly 90 years".



Photos show 'Pirongia Clydesdales', Nick van der Sande, driving Clydesdale 'Glen' to the Whittakers delivery cart.

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## PIRONGIA CLYDESDALES REDUCTION SALE April 8<sup>th</sup> 2017

By *Peter Lane*.

*(All prices quoted are exclusive of GST which was charged at 15%)*

**Please note, this is not an official list, but just compiled from notes taken on the day**

Jill and Nick van der Sande of Pirongia Clydesdales recently held their reduction sale which saw a range of working heavy horse and harness items go under the hammer. Contrary to popular belief, the sale did not mark the end of the Pirongia Clydesdales, but Jill and Nick hope it will enable them to slow down and enjoy a quieter pace of life after more than 30 very busy years working horses in the public eye.

The Clydesdale team will still work from home and public will be able to visit the horses at their Pirongia base. The Clydesdale team will no longer be travelling across the country to public events, weddings and the like, however their Friesian horse team will continue to travel to weddings for another year or so.

The highlight of the offering was the DB Clydesdale hitch wagon, built and imported from USA in 1992. The wagon was purchased by Pirongia Clydesdales when they split from DB Breweries back in 1999. Beautifully finished oak and brass finish, it seats 14. The wagon was built as a replacement for the DB original wagon (NZ made) which now resides in Timaru's Mainland Brewery. A second wagon was needed at this time because of the increased demand for appearances of the DB Clydesdales, and the nature of the work the team undertook. This one was used not only on exhibition drives and shows, but also in snow and deep water in a variety of DB advertisements over the years. After a strong bidding war, the wagon including its magnificent European lamps, sold for \$72,000 and has gone to Okato, Taranaki.

A beautiful Brougham of classic lines built by Eion Clark of Carterton complete with pole and shafts, and fitted with drum brakes was passed in at \$12,000 but was subsequently sold by private treaty and has gone to John Bailey's Museum at Gisborne.

The advertised European-built American Conestoga-style wagon was absent on the day. Will be sold privately at a later point.

Brand new unused English Bellcrown sporting gig to suit 14.2-15.2 hh. Passed in at \$1400

Jaison Cob Harness to suit above \$1650

NZ made Show gig, suit 12.2 pony. (Made by P Temple from the South Island)  
Needs slight cosmetic repair. Passed in at \$500

Four wheel carriage on motor bike wheels to suit 12-13 hh pony \$500

Glinkowski four wheel competition vehicle suit 12-14 hh. Complete with pole and shafts, disc brakes extendable track width etc  
Passed in at \$4,000

Alfriston sporting gig on 42 inch wheels to suit 11-13 hh \$1,300

Exercise carts \$10-\$50

Selection of assorted agricultural items, parts, chains and swingletrees.

Mini harness and 13 inch full collar and hames \$800

Horse clippers \$300

Cream can \$70

Heavy Horse work collar and hames \$700

One horse set of Gun Carriage Harness \$800

2x Show Scotch Collars and hames \$1600 and \$1300

Heavy horse work harness passed in at \$1900 (later sold by private treaty at \$5000)

Pair of full Canadian Heavy Horse Sleigh Bells - \$1600 and \$1800

DB Leather head collars with name plates, \$140-\$200

6 horse team leader reins \$330 and \$220

4 horse team leader reins \$220

Books, a wide range from up to \$22

*Photo below shows Jill, Samantha and Nick van der Sande with the happy new owner of the hitch wagon; Glenys Putt, Taranaki.*



## CUMMINGS' CLYDESDALES

Our Clydesdales have been busy over the last 10 months. For the 10th year they were used as trekking guides in Waiouru for their annual Kaimanawa guided horse trek.



They have provided a crowd entertainment by showing that they can do dressage to music, even dressed up in tails for the occasion at the Taihape Dressage Area Champs.



Travelled down to the Otago Goldfields Cavalcade for their 11th Year;



raced at the Castlepoint Clydesdale Races;



competed in the Masters Games in the Competitive Trial Riding in Wanganui ...

and attended ANZAC Day in Bulls, where Bess one of the 4 war horses to return to NZ, has been laid to rest.

Grayson helped... move logs from our forestry block (only a few, the trucks were more efficient).

We are slowly learning how to use our horses in harness and frequently show them in hand, but just want to show everyone that our draught horses are very versatile.

*Regards  
Kathy Cummings*

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*Big thanks to Kathy for this great article. Great to see their horses are being used and not just decorating the front paddock.*

*As Kathy says they are demonstrating the versatility of the Clydesdale breed and having an awful lot of fun doing it. My favourite pic is the photo on the left of the horses patiently standing in their hobbles.*

**Editor**

**NB** Contributions received at anytime for the newsletter but please try and meet the given deadline. I produce several other newsletters around the same time and they must take precedence as I get paid for them!

Helen

**OKLAHOMA PHOTOS**

Kim Kenny, a Wairarapa based member of the Society, was in Oklahoma a few months ago and was fortunate to be able to attend the Six Horse Hitch finals at the Oklahoma State Fair. She kindly sent me the photos below for the newsletter.



*Steve Muggeridge and Jim Lowe on the wagon at the Wairarapa Show, Carterton. Photo: Kim Kenny*



Oklahoma again to the right →→→→→→→→→→

*Some of the horses present at the Wairarapa show in late October , 2017*

**Photo: H McKenzie**



Flyer for the War horse memorial fundraiser



Reminder to Society members if looking for a commission to be done, or to purchase a existing painting please contact me to discuss it, Carla



Here's one I did of Rocko a little while back..(above) and a painting of a Andalusian; will paint most things, cats, dogs, donkeys goats but especially Clydesdales :)

[www.behance.net/CarlaMcKnightArt](http://www.behance.net/CarlaMcKnightArt)  
[www.facebook.com/CarlaMcKnightArt](http://www.facebook.com/CarlaMcKnightArt)  
E mail [zarockoart@hotmail.co.nz](mailto:zarockoart@hotmail.co.nz)

**MATT GAULDIE**  
**BRONZE WAR HORSE**  
Fundraising Statues. Limited Offer.

A percentage of proceeds will go towards fundraising for Hamilton Equestrian Centre, and also towards the installation of a NZ War Horse statue at the International War Animals Memorial Garden, at Pozieres in northern France. Lay-buy options are also available.

**Leaping/Beersheba War Horse 2017**  
\$3500 including gst  
12 editions only  
Approximately 40cm x 35cm

**Hamilton War Horse 2016**  
\$3500 including gst  
20 editions only  
Approximately 28cm x 35cm

Former NZ Army artist Matt Gaudie has produced several prominent WW1 commemorative bronzes sited in public spaces around New Zealand, and his sculptures and paintings are in numerous public and private collections.

He has achieved widespread recognition both as an accomplished sculptor and a painter, portraying the past and present in big and bold works with an eye for detail.

www.mattgauldie.com  
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Waikato

Below: the Waikato Heavy Horse Group with the gun limber at the unveiling of the War Horse memorial.  
Photo: Gareth Pryce



*Some photos the editor took while on the International Red Poll Cattle Congress tour in the USA, June 2017*



*Shire Horse Statue, Shipshewana, Indiana*



*Waiting for a ride back to the hotel, 15 minutes away by carriage. Amish owned business. Retired Amish men are the drivers. Black Percheron mare in this one.*



*Amish buggy for sale, \$3,000, Shipshewana, Indiana. A good buggy horse (Standardbred) is \$3,500 - \$5,000.*



*Gelding on greeting duty at the Anheuser Bush Brewery in St Louis.*



*The sign on the gate at Anheuser Busch*



*Evening buggy rides – common around St Louis. Pulled by grey Percheron. We didn't get to go this time.*