



# Clydesdale NewZ, November 2015

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Hello All

Welcome to our half-year Clydesdale newsletter.

I look forward to receiving any items you think other members may be interested in.

If you come across a good book on Clydesdales or their harness, implements etc perhaps you could let me have the title, author, publisher and year of publication. Even better would be a review on whether or not you enjoyed it and found it informative.

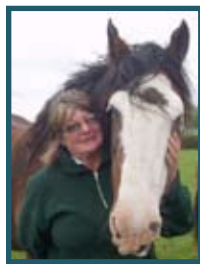
I have been fortunate to gain the permission of NZ rural poet, Mr Colin Patterson, to reprint his poem, 'Old Dick' from 'Rural Delivery', a book of poems by various kiwi poets. Colin tells me the poem is based on his actual recollections of a working horse called Dick. He was the last survivor of three working horses that Colin knew as a lad on his father's farm.

As an aside, who saw the three lots of Clydesdale people on the TV recently? First there was Janet Affleck on 'This Town' directing dancing tractors; then there was a whole 'Country Calendar' devoted to Tania Chisholm and her farming enterprise and lastly Warwick and I got ten seconds of fame on a 'Country Calendar' programme about our neighbours and their vineyard and olive grove. Steve Muggerridge and his ploughing pair got his photo twice in the NZ Farmer – one being a cover shot.

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## A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Your mares should all be foaling down, hopefully giving you the colt or filly you desire, but above all to have a healthy mare and foal is a good result. Problems can arise very quickly during a foaling and these must be dealt to rapidly. Keep up the selenium levels, check that the foal has had colostrum and is getting a drink from the mother; retained placentas must be removed from the mare as soon as possible. Getting mares back in foal to the stallion of your choice - do your homework on the pedigrees and match up type and bloodlines.



I have recently been at the World Clydesdale Show held in London, Canada. Nearly 600 horses took part in this show over the five days with everything from in hand (they call them line classes) to eight horse hitch classes. One could wander down the alleyways of stalls and

watch and talk to the owners, breeders, handlers, and grooms. All the classes were held in a stadium, whilst the horses were housed in the trotting ground facilities, and temporary stabling in a wing of the stadium and in huge marquees erected especially for the show. It was well run and what an amazing friendly atmosphere from our hosts, the competitors and the visitors. We can learn a lot from this. I will give you a more in depth report of the show in the Tribune as will some of the other Kiwi Clydesdale people who were there.

The 23rd October was the Royal Show at Hastings held on those beautiful park-like grounds. I had the pleasure of judging and would like to thank all of those people who made the huge effort to attend with their horses and also thank the supporters. The grandstand was full for the Grand Parade and the Clydesdales were well received.

The 1st November was Waikato Show which I also judged and once again a beautiful day. Carterton Show was also on the same day judged by Mr Craig Symes. Gisborne show was 17th October judged by Mr Gareth Pryce. Results should be on the web site and fuller reports in the Tribune.

I am very pleased to see lots of new people coming along to attend both shows and field days, bringing their horses out, or just having fun and being part of support crew. It is up to us as a Society to encourage and assist these people as we need more breeders and make the Clydesdale Horse more accessible to those interested. The Clydesdale Clubs and Heavy Horse Associations do a great job at this.

Season's Greetings and Happy New Year to all

*Viv Simmons*  
President

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## SECRETARY'S NOTE:

**2016 AGM** will be held in Gisborne, **a week earlier than usual**, with the AGM & Councillors Meetings on Friday June the 3rd. Venue to be advised.

## Hillary Simmons was in Canada for the World Clydesdale Show 2015, where she was able to ride in one of the classes.

(More in the Tribune)

'I rode in the morning, taking Patti for a spin in the little sand arena outside. She was feeling a bit lazy this time so I opted for a pair of spurs to boost her along. After a bit of a warm up we got some nice canter strike offs. Thursday p.m. was the English riding class. I spent the a.m. getting Patti beautiful, which included putting in a false tail, plaiting up her mane and putting the finishing touches on my riding gear. There were 12 competitors altogether, all beautiful in a mixture of different "English" styles of riding e.g. hunting, dressage etc. We were in the 2nd heat of horses to enter the ring.

Patti went well, unfortunately we missed our 2nd canter after being squished in the corner by other horses. Patti was the best mount on the day, she looked after her rider. We got 10th place and I came home with a beautiful big rosette, which is now hanging proudly on my mantle piece.

I can't help but think it would be awesome to have some kind of international competition between countries at the next World Clydesdale show...."

*Below: Hillary with 'Patti'*



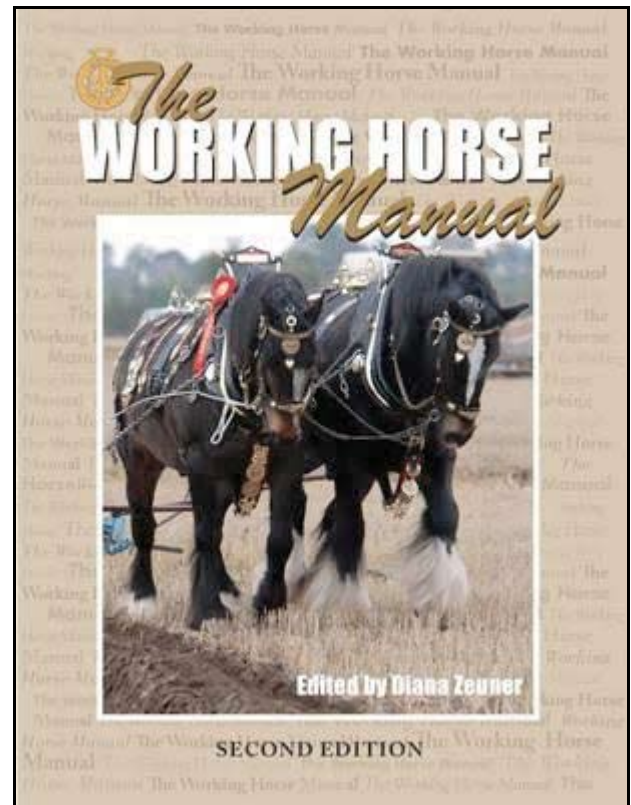
'When I can't ride any more, I shall still keep horses as long as I can hobble about with a bucket and wheelbarrow. When I can't hobble, I shall roll my wheelchair out to the fence of the field where my horses graze, and watch them.'  
*Monica Dickens (1915 -1992) from "Talking of Horses..."*

## BOOK REVIEW

When the Editor recently received the 'Shoof' Catalogue for 2015 it listed amongst its horse books, 'The Working Horse Manual'.

Catalogue reference number is 200 858 and it costs \$89.95

As it is a 2nd edition some of you may already possess it but others will be new to its knowledge.



It says the following about it: -

'A superb book destined to become the bible for all working horse enthusiasts. Edited by Diana Zeuner, also editor of the UK magazine, "Heavy Horse World", this book is a compilation of articles from leading heavy horse experts covering a wide range of topics. Soft cover, 240 pages with lots of photos and diagrams.'  
*[Note: This is not a new edition of the book 'The Heavy Horse Manual' by Nick Rayner and Keith Chivers published back in 1981. Editor]*

## OBITUARY

**Mr Gilbert Atkins** (died last week of July, 2015)

Gilbert Atkins was the last milkman in New Zealand using horses to deliver the milk. He lived and delivered in the Taradale area of Hastings. Gilbert retired from this in 1984. He held a dispersal sale of horses and equipment.

Gilbert had his 'Riverdale' prefix first listed in Vol 31 of the studbook when he registered some horses. He purchased the mares Waimeha Kowhai in 1968, 'Virginia' (1979) and Ben Alder Margaret (1978) and lastly the mare, Ashbourne Alice, in 1983. She was by the imported horse Craigie Ambassador (UK).

In 1976 Gilbert bought the black stallion, Maxwellton Sunrise, bred by JW Cooper, Gore. Later he had the stallion, Strathaven Ben Nevis, bred by R Barwell. He was by Valmont Footstep out of Valmont Lady Superb. Just before Gilbert retired he bought the colt, Silver Cloud, from Bob McConachy of Rongotea. This colt was by Sue Butterick-Kent's entire, Glen Epic, out of the great breeding mare, Llewellyn Jeannie, bred by Jack Morgan, Waikato.

Gilbert was very much considered an 'identity' in his district and was rewarded for his work with the Taradale Rotary Club when he received the Paul Harris Medal in 1987. His wife Beverley predeceased him.



*Gilbert, and one of his mares, a year or two before he retired.* (Photo:H.McKenzie)

### Historic Notes

#### SIDNEY ROYAL SHOW SALES OF CLYDESDALES

*Papers Past, Evening Post, 11th April, 1936*

The Royal show has been favoured since Tuesday with ideal weather, and today's crowd was about 100,000. The horse sales yesterday included a number of Clydesdale stallions and mares, for which there was a brisk demand, particularly for younger stallions. The top price was 252gs, reached by A. Stoke's Noble Douglas, a bay colt imported from New Zealand. The next best was 200gs, paid for Mrs B Miller's Kenwyn Maggie, also imported from New Zealand. A Clydesdale mare sold on account of Mr J.M. Smith, North Otago, fetched 145gs.

## OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE CLYDES

### AN ARTIST IN OUR MIDST

The fabulous Clydesdale portraits below (acrylic paint on canvas) have been done by Society member, Carla McKnight.

Carla specialises in equine and aviation (warbird) paintings.

She says, "The horse with the collar is Derrick Thornton's 'DT Oliver'. I gave this painting as a thank you for him helping me out by showing 'Rocko' for me seeing I had a broken foot."



D T Oliver (Olly)



Rocko (Zarocko Storm by DT Oliver)

Carla has existing art for sale and is also available for commissioned works. If you are interested in getting your horse portrayed (or your warbird!) her details are below.

Zarocko Equine & Art  
www.behance.net/CarlaMcKnightArt  
www.facebook.com/CarlaMcKnightArt  
e-mail zarockoart@hotmail.co.nz

## 'BILLY' GOES HUNTING



**Ashtencroft Raine a.k.a Billy** Photo: Susanna Izard

We live at Lake Tekapo. My Clydesdale Billy (Ashtencroft Raine #5214) is 16HH 3" and works for Mackenzie Alpine Horse Trekking during the season. I bought him from John and Angie Wall at Adventure Horse Trekking in Waimate.

We are members of the South Canterbury Hunt and the photo is of my daughter Cate riding him on the closing day 2015. He and I go through the gates and he LOVES the excitement of hunting. He is well known in Tekapo and has starred in many wedding photos for MAHT.

For 8 months of the year he lives in a herd of 20 Standardbreds and one other Clydesdale called Fergus.

*Susanna Izard*

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## TAUMARUNUI CLYDESDALES

A bit of info about us and our horses:-

Bo is a gelding. His full name is Coulter Valley Beaumont by Armageddon Lord Samson and out of Coulter Valley Belinda, He was born on 17 October 2007. He was bred by Conrad Duymel, broken in by Derek Thornton and we purchased him in July 2011.

Delilah is a mare, obviously! Her full name is Carrick Grace Kelly by Armageddon Lord Samson and out of

Chivas Regal Kelly. She was born on 18 October 2007. Delilah was bred by the Van der Sandes.

She had been broken in as trekking horse by Lloyd Worthington. When we purchased her from him our friend, Mike Wallace, broke her into harness for us. We purchased her in October 2012 from Lloyd. It was a real coincidence that we found her only 1/2hour from home and that she was Bo's half sister also. What an awesome pair they are.

We use them for our own enjoyment, mainly sledging, in a hitchcart manure spreader. We have recently purchased a wagon. We work them every weekend, and will start ploughing soon.

There is nobody handy to Taumarunui which is a shame as we haven't any means of transporting them both legally as yet. We have taken Bo to Cambridge Show earlier on. He won a couple of ribbons. I think the closest Society members are in Taupo and in Taihape.



*Bill and Sharon Goodwin's pair of Clydesdales, Bo & Delilah took part in the Taumarunui ANZAC parade this year.*

Photo: Sharon Goodwin

We are Members of the Waikato Heavy Horse Association and were their "Groupies" for a couple of years until we got Bo, going to every event they had and gaining knowledge from their fieldays.

We will come to Masterton at some point as Mike has since moved down there so we will need to visit them.

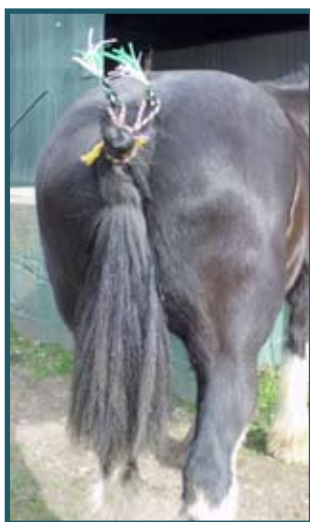
We took Bo & Delilah to our local A & P show, which was close enough to hitch them into the cart and walk them down, and also to the local ANZAC Parade.

We would love to see some other Clydesdale people and perhaps take them over our circuit that we do each weekend, as it is over 2 farms and through a stream or two, or can go onto road around the block.

We also hosted a weekend trek for the Waikato Heavy Horse Club around Moerangi which is over by the lake a couple of years ago. It was a lot of fun. Many thanks for your interest. It is the first time anyone has expressed any interest.

*Sharon Goodwin*

## PLAITING DAY



Southern Hawkes Bay, Manawatu & Wairarapa Clydesdale owners got together at Riverside Farm where Hillary Simmons' and partner Dave Milne were based when still in the Wairarapa, for a practise day dressing horses for the show.

*Dealing With the Undocked tail – one of the solutions*  
Photo: H McKenzie



*Some of those having a go. Photo: H McKenzie*

Hillary's daughter Annabel's miniature horse was very patient as the neck for mane plaiting practice - just the right height. No step ladders needed here!

Dealing with undocked tails was also a popular topic. A pot luck lunch was well received. Preparing legs was dealt with after lunch. It was a great way to meet other folk from the wider area too.

Many thanks to Hillary Simmons for organising the day.

The Editor spent three days at the Royal Show at Hastings with sheep & cattle and managed to get a couple of photos of Stephen Muggeridge's team in the Grand Parade (it wouldn't have been very grand without the great line up of vintage tractors!). The 'in hand' photos and placings for the classes will be in the next Tribune and some on the Society website shortly.



*Stephen Muggeridge, with Jim Lowe beside him, holds his five horse team as they wait for the Grand Parade to begin. They were accompanied by several led and ridden Clydesdales.*



*Left – Right: Steve McDonald and his entire, Glenduan Lochinvar, champion male, and the Supreme Champion Clydesdale - the mare, Mangakura Joy, bred & owned by Andrew Gibberd, led by Hillary Simmons. Photo: H McKenzie*

**'The best thing for the inside of a man  
is the outside of a horse'**

*Lord Palmerston (1784-1865)*

## 'OLD DICK' by Colin Patterson

*Reprinted with the poet's permission from 'Rural Delivery;  
Poems And Images from New Zealand Farms'  
Published by Random House New Zealand, 2010*

The stables are no longer there  
nor the six-horse team with the one to spare  
The harness fell in disrepair  
as time has rolled along

I wandered back across the Springbrook yard  
the memories flooded back  
and there beside the hedge of thorn  
Dad's Duncan plough with moleboards worn

I'm pleased Dad isn't here to see  
the way things are in 2-0-0-3  
for growing 'tween moleboards two and three  
is a lofty elderberry tree.

I sat down on the rusty beam  
and leant back on the shady tree.  
The sun was hot and in the shade  
I quietly nodded off.

My grandad bought the Duncan plough  
and taught his sons the way to plough.  
To Bill and Jock it was a dream  
to drive the Clydesdale six-horse team.

Then Jock left home aged just 18  
to fight on old Gallipoli.  
But Johnny Turk was waiting there  
upon the top of Chunuk Bair.

The more they charged the more that fell  
'til all the boys were blown to hell.  
Jock never more would hook the team  
to the Duncan plough by the swingle tree.

Bill carried on when Grandad died.  
The six-horse team, they were his pride  
and taught us brothers three and four  
the way to plough and so much more.

But then in 1946  
the tractor replaced the team of six  
and left my father in a fix  
just what to do with the Clydesdale six.

Old Duke and Glen were sold down south  
Three more went over to near Greymouth  
but Dick remained old faithful Dick  
who was my father's favourite pick.

With wither height of 6ft 3  
I barely came up to his knee  
but he became my bestest friend  
when I was barely ten.

I'd tempt him with a bowl of chaff  
which I would place upon the ground  
and when he lowered his big head down  
I'd put the blinkers on.

With binder twine I made a rein  
which stretched from bit up to his mane,  
then 'come on Dick you are my mate.'  
I'd lead him to the cow yard gate,

then climb the bars to gain some height  
so I could leap upon his back.

With 'gee up Dick' we'd clump along  
the road to see my cousin John  
as happy as the day was long  
were me and dear old Dick.

One morning Dad came in to say  
that poor old Dick had passed away.  
He breathed his last without a sound  
Dad never wished to put him down.

We buried him just where he lay  
beside the hedge of thorn.  
To us old Dick old gentle Dick  
was the greatest Clydesdale born.

Then farming became a different game,  
tractors with hydraulics came.  
The Duncan plough with the swingle tree  
became disused machinery.

We towed her in beside the barn.  
She'd done her time, the moleboards worn,  
and parked her by the hedge of thorn  
to watch the world go by.

One day a blackbird brought a seed  
from yonder elderberry tree  
and dropped the seed upon the ground  
between moleboards two and three.

When springtime came the seed did strike.  
The soil was rich, the sun was bright.  
The roots went down with all their might,  
the leaves were green, the berries bright.

And there beneath the soil and clay  
was dear old Dick now in decay,  
which fed the elderberry tree  
growing between moleboards two and three.

Dick's muzzle soft as a velvet chair  
nudged away at my greying hair  
and woke me from my slumber dream  
sitting there on the Duncan beam.

I'm ageing now, the years go quick,  
to help me walk I need a stick.  
I'm pleased I paused by the thorn hedge thick  
and rode once more on dear old Dick.

Someday I'll reach the pearly gate  
where dear old Dick just stands and waits,  
blinkers on and reins of string; reunited Dick and me.  
With a gee up Dick who could wish for more  
than to meet all those who have gone before.

