

NZ Clydesdale Horse Society Inc.

Clydesdale NewZ

December 2023



A FEW NOTES FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

December 2023

Hi Members,

I hope the season is treating you well. Especially with foaling and getting mares back in foal. The weather has been so unsettled for quite some time.

In saying that, there have still been some reasonable entries at a variety of Shows around the country, which is so great to see.

Getting the Clydesdale horses out in the public for them to see is brilliant. Let's just enjoy our horses, whether it be at home or out in the public eye.

All the very Best to you all for the New Year. Be safe out there.

Kind Regards

Your President,

Steve Muggeridge Taungatara Clydesdales

Front cover photo:

Fenton Hills Duke, by Donnybrook Matabo out of Rockwood Countess. Aged 19 years.

Note from the Editor

Apologies for not having got this out before Christmas but it is a labour of love not a remunerated position! It would be easier if everyone asked to supply photos or articles was a bit more prompt letting me know if they were available or not!

Thank you to those who supplied photos and articles, and to the National Library's Papers Past facility. It is an amazing resource, and we are fortunate to have it freely available.

I have also used a lot of my own photos, past and present.

Unfortunately, I do not get to many of the non-Society events and so they remain undocumented by me.

I found it quite sad, looking back at some of the coloured photos of horses. Unlike the black & white photos which we knew – these look like they might have been taken yesterday and those horses have been dead for years!

Cheers Helen McKenzie

FROM THE SECRETARY:

It has been a year of change, with the Society's new constitution completed, reregistration as an Incorporated Society, Tax Exemption granted from IRD, and as many of you will know after 7 years as secretary, I will be standing down as of the end of the AGM next year. It has been great to be part of the society's growth during this time.

The Society has an application for secretary. Councillor portfolios are being implemented to ensure the incoming secretary role is tenable. I created the Society website 15 years ago and have been updating it since. It would be great if someone was interested in taking over the role of webmaster, and if anyone is also interested in creating the monthly email newsletters, please contact me.

Details of next year's **AGM IN ASHBURTON** are:

FRIDAY 24TH MAY - HOTEL ASHBURTON

8.30am Council only meeting

1.00pm AGM Hotel Ashburton

7.00pm AGM Dinner at Hotel Ashburton (Buffet \$49 per person)

SATURDAY 25TH MAY - carpool/self-drive

8.30am Leave hotel after breakfast for a tour of local points of interest.

6.00pm Erewhon Station - staying the night (Cost \$100 per person which covers dinner, breakfast and lunch) - please bring sleeping bag or own bedding if possible and beverages. Approximately 60 registered Clydesdales.

Sunday 26th May - carpool/self-drive

9.00am Judging Day at Erewhon Station (open to all members and RAS Judges), finishing after lunch.

RSVP to secretary for AGM Dinner and Erewhon Accommodation and Meals is essential!

If you have any agenda items for next year's AGM, please start sending them through to me.

Venue Details:

Conference Venue: Hotel Ashburton https://www.hotelash.co.nz

Address: 11-35 Racecourse Road, Ashburton, Canterbury, New Zealand 7700

Phone: 0800 330 880, Email: info@hotelash.co.nz

Discounted rate \$150 per night, **please book directly** with the hotel via email or phone and mention NZ Clydesdale Society.

Reminder that annual subscriptions were due 30th September for those who have been sent reminders and haven't paid yet.

Key dates coming up:

Annual Membership due by: 30 September Stallion Return due by: 30 April annually.

AGM and Field Day Ashburton: 24th to 26th May

Horse Registration due by: 31 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.

I hope to see you all at some of our upcoming events and if I can be of any assistance feel free to contact me.

Gareth Pryce Ph: 0272725644 4016 Mokau Road RD48, Urenui Secretary,

Clydesdale Horse Society of New Zealand (Inc.)

Obituaries Thanks to Sue Kent for these items



Bryan Robertson

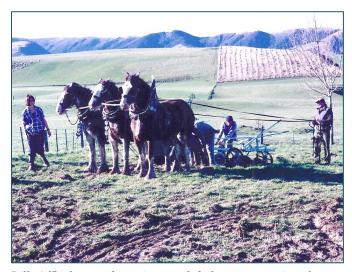
Deborah, Jim & Geraldine Cook, John Booth, Gaye Day, Sue Butterick-Kent and Sarah Kent, recently went to Bryan Robertson's funeral, in Lincoln.

Disappointingly, we were the only Clydesdale people to attend.

Bryan was a foundation member of the Canterbury Clydesdale Club and an early Secretary of the club. He was a partner in Barton Fields Clydesdale Stud and exhibited at Shows for many years. After Keith died, Bryan retained a stallion.

Bryan retired quietly but in recent times, he came out again and willingly judged at Shows, catching up with the Clydesdale scene again. He was someone who could come and help a show at short notice, which was much appreciated. We will miss him.





Bill Affleck, on the reins, and helpers preparing for a demonstration of ploughing with a single furrow plough and a three-horse team at their Tapanui property when the Clydesdale Annual General Meeting and Fielday was held down there in 1997.

Bill Affleck



Bill with his Royal Show Champion mare, Mossdale Bonnie Jean, at the Invercargill Royal Show in 1999.

Bill was brought up on the fringe of the Clydesdale scene. His mother was a Logan, who married an Affleck. Uncle Jim Logan worked the horses, Uncle Bill helped when called, especially at showtime. Uncle Tom was left with the horses, and it was only when Bill grew into his later teens, that was he allowed to do anything with them e.g. feed hay, shift them and eventually do the jobs that Tom's health didn't allow him to do.

In 1982 Tom Logan transferred the horses and the "Mossdale" prefix over to Bill. He was fortunate, he was permitted to continue the Stud name, "Mossdale", something Bill was very proud of, and rightly so. He was a Life member of the NZ Clydesdale Horse Society

Bill was able to grow into the role of a Logan descendant with the Stud. He bred horses, imported stallions and provided a team for special outings and displays. Bill and his sons attended three NZ Silver Ploughing Matches with horse teams. At the World Ploughing Match at Outram in 1994 the 6 horses in their team were all bred at Mossdale stud.

Bill won the Union Steamship Cup outright in 1999 with his mares: Mossdale Jean, 1989, Mossdale Vanessa 1994 and Mossdale Bonnie Jean in 1999. The latter's win completed the requirements for the cup; 'to be won on three different occasions with a different mare each time'. He did well.

2023 CLYDESDALE AGM & TOUR HAMILTON

The Conference was held on Friday 9th June at the Distinction Hotel in Hamilton. Refer to your Minutes for the AGM proceedings and the North & South Island Publicity Reports.

There was a good turnout to the meeting with several faces that were new to some of us.

The **Annual Dinner** was held on Friday night at the hotel.

Margot welcoming us all to the bar before we went into dinner! >



Before dinner

Time to catch up with old friends.

Warwick and Alan ➤





▲ Jaimie & Marie



Left - right: Jamie, Lockie, Ian, Cathy & Rod



Left - right: Craig, Sandy & Steve

Left to right
Vivienne, Bruce,
Hillary, Faye, Jaimie
& Marie

▶



At dinner



L-R: Fred, Steve, Margaret, Bruce and Sue



L-R: Nick, Gareth, John, Alan, Margot & unknown front centre



L-R: Amanda, Adrian, Glenn & Sadie



L-R: Colin, Cathy, Ian, Faye Bruce (obsc.) Erin, & Jaimie centre front.



Left to right - Helen. Warwick, Jim, Alister and Jacquie

Saturday 10th Field Day

We left the hotel by taking our own vehicles or carpooling. First stop was at the **Somerton Clydesdale Stud** of Amanda Pink and her son Grant Patterson, located on the outskirts of Hamilton.

Wow, what a set of stables! I think most of us were pea-green with envy. Also, to see the horses nicely presented and have them individually brought out to view was great. Having their pedigrees up to look is always very helpful for those with an interest in the backgrounds of the various horses.

Each loosebox had a horse in it and initially everyone went in to see them in their boxes and look over the pedigrees.

From there we went outdoors, and each horse was paraded individually, with an opportunity given to take photos.



L-R: Margot & Tylah & Enchanting Indy A



Somerton Lucy R3yr filly by DT Oliver ▲



Blackwood Laura & colt foal by Erewhon Valley Master A



Mangakura Joy by Fenton Hills Max ▲



Enchanting Indy by Kia Kaha King A



Erewhon Bella, foal by Fenton Hills Duke A



Foal by Fenton Hills Duke out of Waihapa Phoenix who died when foal 1 month old. Raised on foster mare. A



Enchanting Layla by Kia Kaha King \land



Mangakura Joshua by Aarunga Remus ex Mangakura Joy♪



Fenton Hills Duke by Donnybrook Matabo out of Rockwood Countess. Aged 19 years. A



Somerton Isobel rising 2 years. A



Somerton Elizabeth rising 2 years. A



The old boys club: L-R Rod, Colin, and Paul \land



Margo, Amanda & Adrian \land

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Next stop was the **Aorere Stud** of David Wilde located at Whatawhata.



▲ Kia Kaha King by Mossdale Royal out of Coldstream Kristina. Wearing his winter clothes.



A Aorere Rasha by Fellbeck Sir David



▲ Aorere Kim by Fellbeck Sir David

The above mares are full sisters, out of Aorere Jackie. Aorere Jackie was by Mangakura Ronald out of Morning Joy.



Colt by Kia Kaha King out of one of the mares. A

We stopped for lunch at the Whatawhata Hotel. Decorated in a rustic manner with deer heads and unpainted timber walls.



Everyone tucking into their pub lunch A



Alister and Vivienne caught at a serious moment. A



Next stop was the much-anticipated visit to the Fellbeck stud of Fred Pilling and his partner Karis (apologies if latter misspelt).

As we walked around to the stables Fred's old stallion, Fellbeck Sir David was tied, waiting patiently.



▲ Fred's stables with his mares.



► Fellbeck Nicky (# 11514) by Beereega Craigluscar out of Fellbeck's Janet's Pride. Aged 22years.



▲ Fellbeck Susan by Fenton Hills Max out of Fellbeck Nicky.



Fellbeck Jude by Fenton Hills Royal out of Fellbeck Nicky \land



Fellbeck Eve by Aarunga Remus out of Fellbeck Nicky \land



Fred's 2 Shire mares A



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

We were very fortunate to also have two males from Teresa Brownbridge and Steve Curtis on display.



A Mangakura Joseph, an entire bred by the late Andrew Gibberd and bought by Teresa Brownbridge & Steve Curtis. Born 2013. By Fenton Hills Royal out of Fenton Hill's Elizabeth. Elizabeth was by Donnybrook Matabo.



A Rising two colt, (breeding unknown by Editor!)



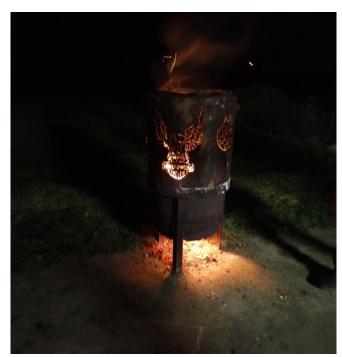
L – R Karis & Jacquie waiting for dinner



Dinner is served – self help!



Convivial company



The outdoor handwarmer!

AGM 2023 – Judging Day by Jaime Winter

After the wonderful Saturday afternoon and evening at Fred Pilling's with him, Karis, their family and friends, we were back the next morning for a judging clinic. Fred very kindly provided his mares for us to go over.

The morning seemed a bit chilly for the North Islanders while the South Islanders were just happy to be missing the minus 4-degree frost down home. We started with Alan Vliet Vlieland, qualified Horse Dentist, giving a talk about what is most important to look for in the way of teeth in the show ring, mainly overbites and parrot mouth. He also talked about some other conditions and broadened all of our knowledge in the teeth department. Many thanks Alan for your passion, information, and willingness to share and teach.

Next was a quick chat from Fred's neighbour Brenna, who is a horse vet that does a lot with endurance horse soundness. We were able to chat with her about elevated heart rates associated with lameness or 'gait irregularities'. Thank you, Brenna for jumping in at the last minute and giving a wellinformed talk.

Following on was a very relevant talk from Senior Clydesdale Judge, and longtime RAS judge, Rod Kraal. Rod talked about the process from being asked to judge through to judging and then the etiquette after showing; what to expect and what is expected of you as a judge. He covered how to be positive, fair, and encouraging in the show ring, giving every horse and exhibitor, the time and attention everyone deserves, while being time efficient. Thank you, Rod for your detailed talk and your obvious passion for judging the breed.

We then moved out into the paddock. Three of Fred's mares were brought out and talked about in great detail by wellrespected senior judge Steve Muggeridge. There were lots of questions and people soaking up the information, with other senior judges helping on the side lines too. Steve Curtis from Thames had very kindly brought a stallion and 2 year old colt for the weekend so the group looked over the colt. A couple helped to get the colt trotting out well. The stallion was next to be judged so Colin Drummond worked him out first, but then, unfortunately, a few of us South Islanders had to catch a big bird back to the mainland, so we left them to it.

It was wonderful to see so many people keen and learning, soaking up everything the senior judges and health professionals had to say. After all we are all always learning and will never stop!

A huge thank you to Fred for his great hospitality, and most of all putting his horses in the hot seat. Thankyou also to Steve Curtis for bringing his horses all the way from Thames and allowing them to be discussed. It's not easy, especially learning at the same time.

Thanks, must also go to everyone who attended, whether it was passing on knowledge and/or asking questions and soaking up the knowledge, it's a part of what the Society is here for, what we all enjoy about the horses and being around like-minded people who have a passion for the same hobby. It's great to see some new people keen and interested and soaking up what they can when they can.

Some judging days may be organised in the coming year and it's great to see support for them out there, so keep an eye out for dates and venues.



Senior Society Judge, Steve Muggeridge talks on the finer points of judging hocks.

Right: -



Above: Alan Vliet Vlieland, Horse dentist demonstrates checking for mouth faults.

Llewellyn Jeannie (#10718) Volume 31

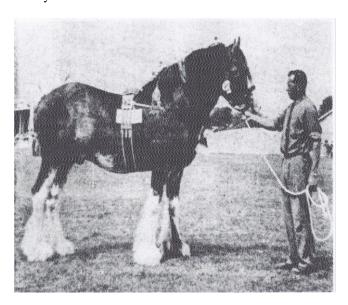
Jeannie was bred by Mr Jack Morgan of Piako, Hamilton. She was foaled on 17th October 1977. She is described as bay, with a full white face, forelegs white to knees and hindlegs to hocks. (*Unfortunately, I have not been able to locate a photo - Editor.*)

Her sire was Donnybrook Daniel O'Connell (#4539) bred by Fergus O'Connor. D. D. O'C was sired by Croydon (#4108) and out of Salome (#10292).



Jeannie's paternal grandsire, **Croydon** #4108. Vol 21 by Scotland's Farewell out of Balloch Lady Betty

Jeannie's dam was Starlight (#10558) sired by **Doura Select** (UK#24846, NZ #4568) who was imported into New Zealand by Mr Brian Sutton of Te Puke. Starlight's dam was Donnybrook Colleen.



Doura Select (Imp.) #24846 NZ #4568 by Doura Perfection out of Dockenflat Ideal.

Photo is from the Chch Press 14th November 1963 courtesy of National Library, Papers Past.

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Jeannie was transferred to Mr Bob McConachy in December 1980. She went on to have a successful career as a brood mare for Bob leaving him 8 registered foals: -

1982 First foal was **Royal Dawn**, a bright bay filly, by Royal Stewart. She was sold to J P Gibberd and later bought by Fred Pilling. Royal Dawn is the maternal granddam of Fellbeck Nicky that we saw at Fred's aged 22years.

1983 Second foal was **Royal Scot**, a bay colt, again sired by Royal Stewart.

He was sold to JP Gibberd and on sold to Paul Halverson of Blackwatch stud. He left three registered foals for Paul.

1984 Third foal was **Golden Dawn** by Glen Epic sold to John Salmon of Palmerston North and later on sold to Rosemarkie Stud and then to a sport horse stud.



Golden Dawn led by John Salmon at a Palmerston North Show

1985 Fourth foal was a bay filly, **Halley** by Glen Epic. Halley has no record of being transferred or being bred from with registered foals.

1986 fifth foal was **Silver Cloud**, a black colt by Glen Epic. He was sold to Gilbert Atkins, the Taradale milkman. He left two registered foals.

1987 sixth foal was **Bright Star**, a bay filly by Glendevon Commander. She was sold to Colin Cook of Foxton. She was the dam of Norbition Jamie.

1988 seventh foal was **Belmont Black Mac**, a black colt by Glendevon Commander. He was sold to Maitland Manning. He sired two registered fillies.

1989 Nothing found for this year, but I have an idea that there was an unregistered blue roan filly also by Glendevon Commander. Perhaps someone may know? (Editor)

1990 eighth registered foal was **Robbie Mac**, a bay colt by Glendevon Commander. He was sold to Dave & Carole Johnson at Levin. As far as can be ascertained he left 3 registered colts and 2 fillies.



Robbie Mac

Llewellyn Jeannie herself was also sold to Dave & Carole Johnson in December 1990.

1991 ninth foal was **Heritage Our Bess**, a bay filly, by Glendevon Commander. Bess won the NZHS Silver medal as a yearling at Palmerston North Royal Show. She had 3 fillies for Dave. Steve Muggeridge leased her and had 1 colt.



Heritage Our Bess at Palmerston North Royal. Brian Sutton the judge. Leader unknown, not Dave Johnson.

1992 tenth foal was **Taungatara Supreme's Elsie**, a rich bay filly by Ashburn Sensation Supreme. **∀** *Elsie*



1993 eleventh foal was **Heritage Highland Major** for Dave & Carole, a full brother to Elsie, by Ashburn Sensation Supreme.

Jeannie was noted as dead in Vol 35 of the NZCHS Studbook. Sires of her foals were:



▲ Glen Epic bred by Susan Butterick -Kent
Described as a red roan, born 1971. Sired by Highland
Laddie out of Shandy.



△ Glendevon Commander bred by Nolan Timmins.

Described as bay, born 1983. Sired by Royal Stewart out of Champagne.



Ashburn Sensation Supreme bred by George & Vivienne Simmons.

Described as bay, born 1989. Sired by Ashburn Bardrill Sensation out of Ashburn O'Connor's Kathleen

From the Secretary, re the Baron Bold item.

I had a call from John Tardif after he read your article on Baron Bold. He told me the following story which he heard over 50 years ago. -

'The story was known after an unscheduled train came through.

Baron Bold's groom overheard the Clydesdale section judge on a train say he was going to put him in his place.

Baron Bold was placed 3rd at the Oamaru Show that day. Patrick, the groom, was not happy and said he was taking his horses home. The judge instructed the steward to lock the gates of the show ground and would not let Patrick leave the show grounds.

Patrick said bring up the geldings and back them into the gates.

The judge instructed the steward to open the gates then and let him go home.'

Editor's Note: (Thanks to National Library Papers Past for these snippets below)

Further to that I did some research and found a report of the Oamaru Show of 1912. The item below is from the Evening Post, 22 November 1912 but was reprinted in at least 10 other papers.

Oamaru Show [2012]

By Telegraph - Press Association

At the show there is the finest display of draughts yet seen in Oamaru. Competition is keen in nearly every class. Great interest was shown in the meeting of the two champions – Mr Gardiner's Baron Fyvie and Mr Patrick's Baron Bold. Baron Fyvie gained the verdict; Baron Bold being placed third. Second honours went to Mr Boag's Black Douglas, the judge thus reversing the Christchurch decision with respect to Baron Bold and Black Douglas.

From the **Otago Witness of 13 November 1912** there was this report on the **2012 Canterbury show** (which I have abridged to the relevant horses.)

'Baron Bold repeated his performance on various battlefields, and won easily, the second prize going to Mr Boag's Black Douglas, a magnificent young horse with a bad colour. Newton Chief secured third place.'

In the general article describing the horses: -

'Among the new importations Mr John Boag's Black Douglas stands out prominently. He has not the best of colour, but possesses clean bone, great substance, and a grand lookout.'

Black Douglas was by Revelanta (UK#11876) He was foaled in April 1907. Re his colour – his entry in Vol 1 of the NZ CHS stud book describes him as 'a dark bay or brown roan, practically white face, two black spots upper lip etc.' Leg descriptions were pretty standard with modern horses.

REVELANTA BY BARON'S PRIDE

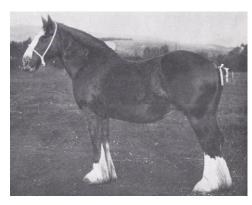
(Above photo from the Catalogue of the Wai-rongoa Stud, North Taieri, Otago) in 1922.

Alongside the comments on the prize winners at the Canterbury show regarding Baron Bold's winning, was the below item on the Heavy Draught Section which may be of interest. There had been some discord in letters to various papers re the 'type' of the modern Clydesdale at that time. Note that Baron's Brilliant, referred to in the item below, won the dry mare class and was overall female Champion Clydesdale.

Heavy Draught Horses.

A class for heavy draught horses was provided in the catalogue for the benefit of those breeders whose horses are supposed to be above the size and weight of the modern Clydesdale type. This brought out one good horse which failed to pass the veterinary examination under Dr Reake's schedule, and another not so heavy in the bone and with less substance than many of the Clydesdales present. He possessed neither feet nor action and was fortunate to secure a prize of any kind.

Of the "heavy" mares Princess Ena, the prize taker, had not half the bone or substance of **Baron's Brilliant**. There were more than a score on the ground heavier in every particular except the coarse hair which grew all round her legs. There is absolutely no necessity for such classes, and they should be struck out of the catalogue altogether.



Baron's Brilliant

Photo from the Wai-Rongoa Auction catalogue

Equine Sarcoids

by Jacquie Pryce

Sarcoids are the most common skin tumour of horses, making up 40% of all cancers in horses.

Unlike melanomas, which mainly affect older grey and white horses, sarcoids do not have a breed, sex or age predilection, but are mostly seen in horses 3-6 years of age.

They commonly occur around the head, axilla and groin, or at injury sites where they closely resemble "proud flesh".

They are locally invasive, progressive tumours but do not metastasise to other organs. There are several different types with varying degrees of aggression.



Occult - flat hairless area, often on face. Resembling a ringworm lesion.



Nodular - raised firm round lumps often on ears, eyes and between legs.



Verrucous - flat, grey, wart like. Often on face



Fibroplastic - fleshy, ulcerated growths



Mixed - combination of above types



Malevolent- malignant, spreading along lymph ducts or veins

Sarcoids are the result of a genetic predisposition and infection with the bovine papilloma virus (cattle wart virus). Once infected, the virus is incorporated into the skin's DNA, causing the resulting tissue changes, similar to the papilloma virus in humans, responsible for cervical cancer.

Transmission is unclear but believed to be by direct contact and flies. These findings would then suggest, that keeping horses with sarcoids or young cattle in the vicinity of other horses, increases the risk of transmission. It also highlights the importance of good wound management, especially during the 'fly season'. There are several treatment options, including laser surgery, cryosurgery, intra-tumoural or chemotherapy, immune stimulation topical electrochemotherapy. The choice of treatment is based on the size, location and type of sarcoid and of course treatment costs. Not all treatments are successful, and recurrence is common. Interference without complete regression can make the sarcoid more aggressive and successive treatment very difficult.

Early intervention is therefore crucial for a good prognosis.

Mr Duncan McGregor, Feilding (by Editor)

Duncan died on 20th May 2021 aged 95. Born on a farm in the Scottish Highlands, both his father and grandfather were professional shepherds, and he began competing in sheep dog trials at age 17. In September 2011 he was one of those representing New Zealand at the World Sheep Dog Trials at Lowther in the Lake District in the UK. He took his smooth coated Border Collie, Drift. I don't think they were placed in the competition. Duncan lived in Feilding for several decades with his wife Sheena and family.

When we knew him, he had a few acres on Awahuri Road. He was involved with Clydesdales about the same time that Cyril Symes was active with horses. Duncan never owned any mares or bred foals himself.

Duncan first bought 2 colts, not registered as far as I could ascertain, but both purebreds. I think they may have come from Bruce Holden or up in his area. The older was a young black entire that he called Prince of Argyle. The younger of the two was by Coldstream McDougal.

Duncan had the misfortune to lose the McDougal colt at about 18 months of age – probably after a heavy worm burden was dealt with. Duncan showed us a large jar full of worms.

The McDougal colt ♥



His second horse he called Prince of Argyle, breeding unknown. This horse was a good dark black and I believe he was sold on to the DB Clydesdales.

Prince of Argyle with Duncan leading him ▼



His most notable horse was Glendevon Commander by Royal Stewart out of Donnybrook Donna. He was bred by Nolan Timmins of Brooklands Station in 1981 and sold to Bob McConachy as a weanling in 1982.

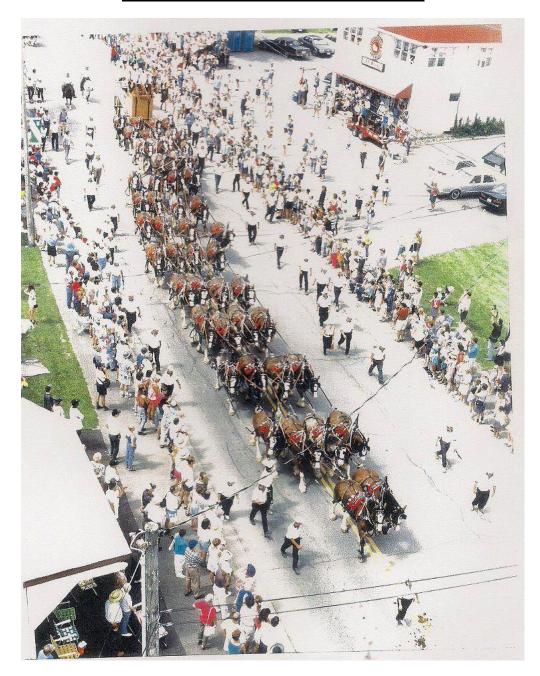
Duncan bought him in 1986 and sold him to Simone Goldfinch in 1991.

Duncan took him to a few shows including a Christchurch Royal where Commander had the misfortune to be lame and was unable to be exhibited.

Below: *Duncan and Glendevon Commander*. This horse sired several very nice, registered foals over the years as well as sport horses, when owned by Simone.



50 Horse Hitch (Team), Ontario. 1995



In 1995 the Guinness World Record 50 Horse Hitch was held to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Navan fair. This consisted of 50 Clydesdale horses hitched as one team and driven 3.5 km through the village.

March of the Clydes by Tim Turney

The call went out all province wide For fifty horses, fifty Clydes. The size or colour we don't much care Just meet us at Navan Fair.

We're planning a Show, the first of its kind A "Fifty Horse Hitch" it'll blow your mind.

Well, it wasn't long before replies came back By letter and phone and some by fax. All anxious to come for the big event Some rich, some broke, some badly bent. For everywhere they seemed to show Not all of them from Ontario. Two brothers from up in North Quebec Were on their way for the "Big Clyde Trek".

And from somewhere in the USA
A team of Clydes passed through Customs one day.
A tall slim man with a beard of white,
Said he was one of the Mennonites.

And up the valley by Mattawa way
A man drove in with his team one day.
Said he was weary, aching and sore,
He'd been on the road for a week or more.

A fella from Timmons who worked in the mines Had a nice team of Clydes but no harness or lines. When they heard of the news on their old radio, Threw some socks in a bag and were ready to go.

One day about noon as we sat down to eat Came a call from the States, it was Idaho Pete. A good man with horses and good with a gun Said he would be right along soon as haying was done.

Up the valley near Pembroke that lumbering town Came a nicely matched team owned by Den & Dot Brown. As they woke about dawn with a 'hay mattress itch' They thought a lot less of this fifty-horse hitch.

When Bill Murphy left for the fair on that day He took with him his wife, his sweet Elly-Mae. He surely liked having her close to his side, More cuddly, he said, than that big team of Clydes.

It seemed every day as more teams appeared
The Summer sped by and Fair time neared.
That folks got more anxious not of how to get rich
But were stricken instead with the Fifty Horse Hitch.

A driver was needed for "Gee, Haw and Whoa" And a fifty-foot whip to get them to go. And men with good horse sense to walk along side To calm and to steady this half mile of Clydes.

Then too there's the waggon, massive and strong Supported by timber 'bout twenty feet long. Assembled by neighbours, with strong backs and arms The work done right here on McWilliams' own farm.

Now the horses are ready, the harness repaired It's all shined and polished 'cause everyone cared. Horses and drivers all ready to go The crowds wait all anxious, to see the grand show.

So, get your camera and call up the Press, The Show is ready, let's give them our best. We can't stop the sunsets, nor hold back the tides, Let history remember THE MARCH OF THE CLYDES.

The morning was bright, with an elegant flair, A wonderful day for this great Navan Fair. For the streets will be crowded and grounds will be full Fifty Clydes will be hitched, a huge waggon to pull.

That's the main attraction – been planning for years, They sent to New York for the huge waggon gears. And they built the frame with lengthy oak beams, So McWilliams could fulfil all the Fair Board's great dreams. Now we got a good seat, with a 'starting point' view We wanted to see what those helpers would do. For there were helpers galore, all dressed to a 'tee', In black pants and white shirts, just as neat as could be.

Those workers would bring out four Clydes at one time Each washed and ribboned and all in their prime.

They all are bright bays with faces of white,

To every spectator, a magnificent sight.

With snowy white feet and black harness agleam
Each pranced to a place in the fifty-horse team.
When everything was ready and the hitching complete,
Willard used a ladder to get up on the seat.

With a wave to the crowd as he gathered his gear, The team left as one horse, amidst cheer after cheer. As the waggon rolled on down the crowded street, The Clydes seemed in time with the clap of their feet.

Folks stared in awe as they lively stepped by The horses' proud heads seemed to reach the sky. People were lined up from the road through the ditch To get just a glimpse of the fifty-horse hitch.

Down through the main street and up past the Bank That waggon rolled on like a World War Two tank. Children and adults all jostle for space There were cameras a flashing and mics everywhere As the media were filming this Fiftieth Fair.

In the next book of 'Guinness' this team will appear As the largest team ever, up to this year. T'was for this occasion, the Board had this dream For the fiftieth Fair – a Fifty Horse Team.

Such very great boost for a small valley town It's the biggest event ever seen here around. "Such a grand sight to see", I heard many folks state, "The most horses I've seen was a six or eight.

But a hitch of this number all driven by one Is really unique – The first time it has been done. And McWilliams is really a capable chap, Navan's his hometown and now on the map.

He has worked on this project Since he first got the itch And has done a great job On this fifty-horse hitch".



Facts from the Fifty Horse Team by Nicol Mackie.

- * 50 horses plus spares, from 13 breeders and 50 handlers, some on foot and some outriders.
- * 1 driver Willard McWilliams... Wyatt McWilliams assisted with the brake.
- * 3 months to train the team. Willard provided the leaders ~ 'Tony' and 'Duke'
- * 9 months to build the harness for 50 horses plus boxes of spare harness.
- * 3 weeks to show 50 horses.
- * 5 am on the morning, they started to assemble the team, to be ready at 11 am (plaiting, decorating, harnessing).
- * The complete team was put together for the first time, on the morning of the parade and walked 3.5 kms to and through the town of Navan... 13th August 1995



Horses:

Borrowed from 13 breeders; not all horses were suitable and some were culled out.

The 4's were sorted to where they worked best – inside or outside, left or right.

During practises it took 2 hours to harness them.

Several of the horse suppliers worked teams of 4 abreast and sorted those.

Then Willard McWilliams brought 18 together to work, then worked 32 together.

He used helpers on foot and outriders in front and beside the team. All helpers were instructed to observe any corrections or alterations needed but to report after the exercise finished.

All were to be quiet (so the horses had only 1 voice to listen to).

The first and only time all 50 horses worked together was the day of the Parade.

Waggon:

Obtained but altered by McWilliams using Ash lumber, 12 feet (3.65mtrs) x 18 ft long (5.50m)

Tyres 4 ½" (11.43cm) x ½" thick (1.27cm)

The waggon is huge, really heavy and took 6 months to build.

It had special brakes, obtained from a threshing mill, and a wheel to wind at the top of the waggon (safer and easier than a lever). 150 feet (45.72m) from lead horse to waggon.

Harness:

The horses used their own collars, but the rest was custom built for the 50 Horse Team.

All the harness was shiny Patent leather and Scottish Long Tops covered the horse's own collars.

Only the back four horses (wheelers) had britches, rest had trace carriers.

The traces were filled with belting inside, for strength.

Hames were not all one casting, the top section could be screwed undone in case of any breaking.

Hames were long topped with Thistles at the ends (which were removable).

The hames had loose reins carrier rings and the bottom dees were also mobile, to allow easier alterations.

Rings below the hame hooks were also movable.

Backbands were padded underneath, to raise them up and sat on red pads.

Each horse's harness weighed approx., 130lbs (59kgs).

Reins (Lines):

Reins were custom made from 8 cow hides - 2,400 feet long (731.50m) \$9,000 for reins

Longest rein 168' from lead horse to driver (51.2m).

Many parts of the reins had 2-3 layers of leather.

The reins were fitted to run to every 3rd set of 4 horses abreast, then buckled in and went back to the waggon.

All cross tied reins, with 1 line to the outside, 1 line to the inside, 1 line to inside of the other pair. Then they drove just like 1 pair.

Then turned over the other side of the 4 abreast were matched to the same pattern.

Each set had 3 leads for cross tying.

Harness Decorations:

The chain link on all harness was custom made and raised to catch the sun and sparkle.

Flyers on collar tops and winkers were especially made as a Maple Leaf.

Every set of harness had 50 on it i.e., winkers, browband rosettes, collar, backbands (both side for 50 horses plus spares). All harness was designed for strength and safety.

There was a whole box of each set of extra parts, just in case but didn't break a thing!





August 2015, For Navan Fair's 70th celebration and to remember 20 years earlier,

when a World Record 50 Clydesdale Horse Hitch, the McWilliams brothers, family and committee pulled out the custom wagon, harness and a team of four abreast Clydesdales and re-enacted the historic drive around the small village of Navan, Ontario, Canada.

100th Royal Show held at Horowhenua (Levin)



Champion Clydesdale female and Supreme Champion Clydesdale, Erewhon Ruth exhibited by Mary O'Hara-Smith

Clydesdale classes held on 19th January 2024



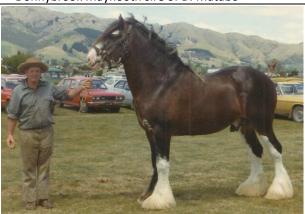
Champion Clydesdale Male, Glenduan Lochinvar, exhibited by Steve McDonald



Awaiting one's turn at Levin ♥

LINEAGE OF FENTON HILLS DUKE (photo front cover) ▲ Sire: Donnybrook Matabo

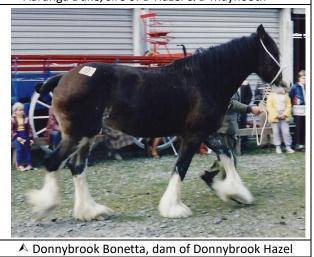




▲ Dam Rockwood Countess

▲ Aarunga Duke, sire of D Hazel & D Maynooth





▲ Donnybrook Margaret Dam of D. Maynooth

▲ Donnybrook Hazel, Matabo's Dam

NZ Agricultural Show (Canterbury)

15-17 November, 2023. Results.

Judge: Colin Brown, (Australia).

Wednesday:

Best Presented Clydesdale Horse and Handler (7)

- 1) Millcreek Ruby, Geraldine Cook
- 2) Woodbury Goldie, JD & DJ Cook
- 3) Ashstencroft Ciaran, JM & NE White
- 4) Glen Lie Poppy, J Winter
- 5) Mack, M Lang
- 6) Silverstream Basil, Cate Smith

Entire Horse, 3 years and over (2) both scratched

Colt, 2-year-old (1)

1) Erewhon Graham, Erewhon Station

Colt, yearling (1)

1) Erewhon Tim, Erewhon Station

Champion Entire Clydesdale: Erewhon Graham, Erewhon Station

(also the Challenge cup and MacIntosh Family Medal) *Reserve Champion Entire Clydesdale*: Erewhon Tim,

Erewhon Station

Brood Mare, 4 years and over, foal at foot or in foal due before 31 Jan. (2)

1) Millcreek Ruby, Geraldine Cook

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

(5)

- 1) Erewhon Kara, Erewhon Station
- 2) Donnybrook Adele, Erewhon Station
- 3) Glen Lie Poppy, Jamie Winter
- 4) Woodbury Goldie, Jim & Deborah Cook

Mare, 3 years old (2)

- 1) Ardgour Braes Jeannie, Erewhon Station
- 2) Erewhon Erica, Erewhon Station

Filly, 2 years old (4)

- 1) Erewhon Wendy, Erewhon Station
- 2) Waikirikiri Ngaio, Sadie Scott
- 3) Ashstencroft Kellan's Kelty, A.D. Gould

Filly, Yearling (2)

- 1) Erewhon Gabby, Erewhon Station
- 2) Erewhon Willow, Erewhon Station

Champion Clydesdale Mare or Filly: Erewhon Kara,

Erewhon Station (also Challenge Cup)

Reserve Champion Clydesdale Mare or Filly: Donnybrook Adele, Erewhon Station

Ballantynes Supreme Champion Clydesdale: Erewhon Kara, Erewhon Station

Best Yearling or 2-year-old Colt or Filly, bred by exhibitor (8)

- 1) Erewhon Wendy, Erewhon Station
- 2) Erewhon Graham, Erewhon Station
- 3) Erewhon Gabby, Erewhon Station
- 4) Erewhon Willow, Erewhon Station
- 5) Erewhon Tim, Erewhon Station
- 6) Ashstencroft Kellan's Kelty, A.D. Gould

Gelding (10)

- 1) Erewhon Andy, Erewhon Station
- 2) Erewhon Ben, Erewhon Station
- 3) Erewhon Barnaby, Kathy Cummings
- 4) Erewhon Richie, Erewhon Station
- 5) Erewhon Logan, Ian cummings
- 6) Donnybrook Silverdale, Corey Woodward

Best Walking Clydesdale (18)

- 1) Ardgour Braes Jeannie, Erewhon Station
- 2) Erewhon Kara, Erewhon Station
- 3) Donnybrook Adele, Erewhon Station
- 4) Glen Lie Poppy, Jamie Winter
- 5) Erewhon Barnaby, Kathy Cummings
- 6) Millcreek Ruby, Geraldine Cook

Rosette: Best Handler in In-Hand Clydesdale section – Pippa Newby.

Thursday:

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

Pairs Sledge Driving Class (6)

- 1) Erewhon Kara's pair, Erewhon station
- 2) Erewhon Logan & Barnaby, Ian Cummings
- 3) Mack & Duke, Murray Lang
- 4) Erewhon Ben, Erewhon Station
- 5) Erewhon Andy, Erewhon Station
- 6) Erewhon Max, Erewhon Station

Sledge Driving Class (16)

- 1) Ashstencroft Ciaran ("Brick"), JM & NE White
- 2) Millcreek Ruby, Jim Cook
- 3) Erewhon Andy, Erewhon Station
- 4) Erewhon Kara, Erewhon Station
- 5) Erewhon Ash, Erewhon Station
- 6) Erewhon Ben, Erewhon Station

Single Horse in a wheeled vehicle (2)

- 1) Ashstencroft Ciaran ("Brick"), JM & NE White
- 2) Donnybrook Silverdale, Corey Woodward

Pair of Horses or three abreast in a wheeled vehicle (2)

- 1) Erewhon Andy's pair, Erin's team
- 2) Erewhon Logan & Barnaby, Ian Cummings
- 3) Mack & Duke, Murray Lang

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

- 1) Erewhon Max and team of five, Erin's team
- 2) Erewhon Kara and team of five, Colin's team

Clydesdale Ridden on flat to include an obstacle course (11)

- 1) Erewhon Kara, Erewhon Station, ridden by Kate Mackle
- 2) Erewhon Ash, Erewhon Station, ridden by Sophie Allan
- 3) Erewhon Ben, Erewhon Station, ridden by Grace
- 4) Ashstencroft Raine ("Billy"), Susanna Izard, ridden by Cate Smith
- 5) Erewhon Max, Erewhon Station, ridden by Stacey Woodward
- 6) Donnybrook Silverdale, Corey Woodward.

Champion Ridden Clydesdale: Erewhon Kara, Erewhon Station, ridden by Kate Mackle (also P.L. Donald Cup)

Reserve Champion Ridden Clydesdale: Erewhon Ash, Erewhon Station, ridden by Sophie.



Left: Sarah Kent, a passenger in Jodeen White's gig, during the Grand Parade at the Christchurch Show

Below: *The Grand Parade line ups.* **Photos:** Sue Kent



