



Clydesdale NewZ

December 2025



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Editor's Note:

All going well we will be overseas during the next AGM so would be great if someone could take photos and make notes of who's who please.

Also, a BIG THANK YOU to all who supplied info for this issue of the NewZ – no newsletter without you!!!



President's Post

December 2025

Hi all,

I hope summer is treating everyone well and that you have healthy foals in the paddock and mares back in foal, with plenty of supplement made for winter.

It has been a pleasure to meet new members and old friends throughout the year and experience the continued passion for our wonderful breed, the Clydesdale horse.

I have enjoyed getting around the country attending A&P shows and Society events throughout the year. In recent months I have managed to attend a society field day at Sandstone Equestrian Centre in Auckland, Canterbury A&P (Royal) Show, and Stratford A&P (Royal) Show. I was very pleased with how well behaved our yearling fillies were.

I would like to thank our secretary Jamie Sugden who has been doing an excellent job behind the scenes of the day to day running of the Society.

A most notable mention is the shows and events Ian & Kathy Cummings attended in October and November. Over a six-week period they attended Hawkes Bay A&P Show, Manawatu A&P Show, Canterbury A&P (Royal) Show and Stratford A&P (Royal) Show, along with giving wagon rides at their community Christmas function. Amongst all this, they managed to put out a Society calendar with show dates. Well done guys! Thank you to the judges, stewards, and exhibitors that helped get the Clydesdale horse in front of the public this year, creating memories for a new generation.

I would also like to recognise the immense amount of time and effort that our councillors have put into their portfolios. Two that I think deserve special recognition are Hillary Milne and Sarah Kent. Hillary has created a draft animal welfare guideline and assisted with the health & safety guidelines. Sarah has been working on judging resources, supporting junior judges, creating resources for "new to showing" and producing memorabilia. Excellent work team.

And of course, I cannot forget to thank Helen McKenzie for producing another addition of the Clydesdale NewZ. Helen was recognized at this year's AGM with an Honorary Life Membership for her service to the Society. Well deserved!

One thing I have reflected on this year is to be sustainable the Society must evolve to meet the needs of our members, whilst celebrating the past. As an example, in 1925 the female membership was 0.4%, today it is 67% and probably much



L-R Gareth Pryce, President, Helen McKenzie & Steve Muggeridge, Immediate Past President

I had the pleasure of awarding Helen McKenzie the title of Honorary Life Member for her enduring work for the Society in producing the Clydesdale NewZ; tirelessly researching our Clydesdale history; for being a past councillor of several decades and emeritus senior judge.

Front Cover Photo (from the Editor's files)

Horses at Fergus and Beth O'Connor's, November 2012. Almost seeing double!

higher when you take into account couples with one membership. Some good examples of change from member feedback this year was the Auckland Clydesdale field days and 'show resources' currently being produced to demonstrate plaiting manes and tails. To enable positive change, we need to hear from you!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

*Gareth Pryce
President*

From the Secretary:

Hi everyone,

2025 has flown by and it's hard to believe I've been in the secretary role for a year. Life is busy as always, but I've managed to attend a few shows, including Christchurch, it was great catching up with familiar faces and some new ones.



I hope you all had a safe and very Merry Christmas.

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 Christchurch: 5th to 7th June 2026

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.

Jamie Sugden
Ph: 0274833398
228 Marahau Road
RD17, Wanganui
Secretary,
Clydesdale Horse Society of New Zealand (Inc.)



Recently three of Steve Muggeridge's horses took part in the Opunake Christmas parade

The offside horse is Jess. The middle one is Maria and the near horse is Merrick, Steve's gelding.



Photo: Jorja McPherson

Merrick is registered as **Taungatara Speight's Merrick** by Ashtencroft Sunbeam out of Taungatara's Luscars Joanna.

Maria is **Taungatara David's Maria** by Fellbeck Sir David out of Taungatara Luscar's Joanna.

Jess is **Taungatara Jess** by Balthangie Silver Sensation out of Taungatara's Victory's Rochelle.

Ashtencroft Sunbeam was by Rockwood Chieftain out of Davendaisy Socialite.

Fellbeck Sir David was by Fellbeck Thomas out of Sugar Creek Maria Van Rooyen.

Balthangie Silver Sensation was by Beereega Craig Luscar out of Heritage Silver Rose.



Photo: Jorja McPherson

2025 CLYDESDALE AGM & TOUR NEW PLYMOUTH

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. Mrs Beth O'Connor was re-elected our Patron.

AGM & Annual dinner photos



Suzie reads out the South Island Publicity Report to the Annual General Meeting



Jamie (CHS Secretary) & Lockie



Rebecca, Stacey, Sue & Corey



L-R Viv Jamie, Ian, Kathy (obscured) Carys, Warwick, Steve, ? Bruce, Faye



Jim, Faye and Bruce



Susie, Cate & Rod



Duncan, Tom & PJ



L-R Carys, Fred & Warwick



L -R Bruce, Viv, Jamie, Ian & Kathy



Bruce, Alison & Margaret

2025 Field Days Saturday 7th June

Off to see Steve Muggeridge's **Taungatara** horses out at Opunake. Unfortunately, the grazing block does not have its own water source, and Steve is having to cart water there for the horses. However, he is very pleased to have the grazing which is not too far from where he lives.



↖ Hillary posing Thunder.





This 1938 wagon used to belong to Steve's father, Lou. It was rebuilt by one of Steve's brothers.



This 1906 wagon has a wind-up brake. Steve noted that Fiona is a very good worker.

Lunch at Sugden's



Part of the tack room



Camden stud of Jamie & LSugden's



Braemore Hamish's Briana



Lanarkshire Alice. Born 2012. By Rosemarkie Little Chief out of Aldie Phillipa.



Camden Skye



Taungatara David's Maria



Camden Maggie



Camden Nova



Erewhon Rex. Born 2017. By Aarunga Aussi Design out of Erewhon Ruby.



L-R Glenduan Genevieve (back Camden Iris, Enchanting Elle & Fenton Hills Ruby)



Camden Shelby



Camden Monarch



Camden Maggie



Erewon Valley Master. Born 2018. By Box Valley Scania out of Erewon Maggie



Glenduan Genevieve. Born 2014. By Donnybrook Seamus out of Erewhon Opal



Rosemarkie Little Frank. Born 2007. By Tanglewood Little John out of Coldstream Penny



Weanlings



Camden Stella

Collar Making & Fitting Lesson from Duncan Cottle



Duncan talking about the forewhale. It is stuffed with ryecorn cut before going to seed.



Demonstrating the shoulder angles and where the collar should sit.



Partly made collar and fabric lined completed collar



Helen and one of Sugden's dogs make the most of a seat.

John Cottle's 6 horse team in his big wagon at the Palmerston North Royal Show 1986.

Photo: H. McKenzie



Sunday June 8th SECRET FALLS stud of BRUCE & ALISON POLLEY



Aarunga Madison Aged 22 years
Imported from Australia by Athol Fenton in 2006
By Aarunga Mastermind out of Aarunga Imogen



Secret Falls Mitchell. 4-year-old gelding.
By Mangakura Lewis out of Kia Kaha Matilda.



Fenton Hills Royal bred by Athol Fenton. Born in 2008.
Used as a stallion. Left 5 registered progeny, now gelded.
By Fenton Hills Magician out of Aarunga Madison.



Kia Kaha Olivia Rising 4 years.
By Mangakura Lewis out of Kia Kaha Olive
Bred by Paul Stroobant.



Secret Falls Mondo



Secret Falls Mally 2 years
By Aarunga Kuba out of Kia Kaha Matilda



Kia Kaha Matilda

By Aarunga Aussie Design out of Ashburn Craig's Keisha. Born 2016. Bred by Paul Stroobant



Glencaron Allstar Jasper

By Wolf Mound's King of Hearts out of Kia Kaha Muffin. Born 2017. Owned & bred by Sylvia Vriend



Sugar Creek Isobel

By Beereega Craigluscar out of Sugar Creek Jessie. Born 2005. Bred by Bruce & Carol Signal.



Glencaron Sapphire Spreckles

Owned & bred by Sylvia Vriend



Kia Kaha Muffin *By Donnybrook Lochnorrie out of Coldstream Kristina Born 2013*



Foreground: Viv & Steve get into some serious discussion

Field Day # 2 GARETH & JACQUIE PRYCE'S BLACKWOOD STUD



Blackwood Jade Born 2019. By Kia Kaha King out of Blackwood Julia



McMurtrie Garlieston (Gus) Imported from Australia ex Colin Brown



Blackwood Julia born 2014. By DT Oliver out of Fenton Hills Lady



Gus in action with Gareth. He was ordered on his bloodlines 5 years before he was born. From a very prepotent mare line.



Blackwood Opal born 2015. By DT Oliver out of Fenton Hills Gift



Foal by Erewhon Valley Master ex Blackwood Jade attended by Jamie



Blackwood Commander. 3yr gelding by Erewhon Valley Master out of Blackwood Julia



Foal by Erewhon Valley Master ex Blackwood Opal

THE ALGIDUS WOOL WAGON

By Jim Morris *Reprinted with permission*

The wool wagon stood by the stable
A relic of former days,
Slightly battered and twisted
Etched in the sunset's rays.
And as I smoked in the evening
A final pipe before bed,
I fancy I heard the tall wheels creak
And old sounds came to my head

The snorts of the team at daybreak
As into their stalls they came,
Keen for a feed of hay and chaff
And a pannikin of grain.

The stamp of feet as the collars
And hames are buckled tight,
With the back pad and breeching
In the early morning light.

The "Whoas", "Come Heres" and
"Gee Backs"
As the shafters were backed in square
The jingle of the trace chains,
And I wished that I was there.

The swingle trees a clanking
And the leaders are hooked up too,
The brake off, and a loud, "Get up",
And the start of a job to do.

For the shearing's nearly over
There's wool a plenty to cart,
And the shoes clink on the roadway
As we back up to make a start.

The thud of the bales as we load them
In the wagon bed there's four,
A dozen roped above this base
The river's too high for more.

The clunk of the wheels on the boulders,
The roar of the water swift,
An anxious neigh from the youngster
As she feels the wagon shift.

But we're out with the water streaming
Off, from the backs of the team,
And the river takes on a lighter note
As through the worst we've been.

The "Iron Store's" behind us
Where we offload the bales of wool,
Homeward bound for another load
The horses are keen to pull.

They're playing with the snaffles
Almost dancing on their feet,
The feel of the lines on the horses eight
Is something that can't be beat.

At length the darkness roused me
And I wandered away to rest,
And thought of the noisy diesels;
Is this what they call progress?



Photo: Probably taken by Ted Porter.

From Mona Anderson's, "A River Rules My Life, published by Reed, reprinted September 1965
The river in the poem is the Wilberforce River. (See next page for a note from Jim re his time there shepherding.)

A note from Jim Morris

"Mount Algidus is a 60,000 acre station in Canterbury that backs on to the Main Divide. The other boundaries are two major rivers, the Mathias and the Wilberforce. The latter required crossing to get access to the property and features in 'A River Rules My Life' by Mona Anderson, one of New Zealand's best-selling books. Her husband, Ron, managed the station when I was head shepherd there in the 1960's and early 1970's. Horses were a big part of our working life."

Note from the Editor

Mt Algidus, owned by Jamie & Jane Smiley for the last ten years, is now for sale. Currently 53,000 acres, with a large new baronial style mansion, it will cost you \$50 Million should you care to make a bid!

It is running 2,000 Angus cows and 2,000 Romney-cross ewes.

If you go to the Mt Algidus station website there are some videos of the station to look at



Goldenlane Nova, Champion female at the Canterbury Royal Show 2025. Bred, owned and exhibited by Alan & Margot Vlieland.



Kia Kaha Olivia. Supreme Champion Clydesdale at Stratford Royal Show. Bred by Paul Stroobant, owned and exhibited by Bruce Polley.

L-R Judge Sarah Kent, Associate Duncan Cottle, Bruce



Goldenlane George, Supreme Champion Clydesdale at Canterbury Royal Show 2025. Bred, owned and exhibited by Alan & Margot Vlieland

Judge: Lynette Fritsch – Australia

HIGHLIGHTS FROM KATHY & IAN CUMMINGS' YEAR WITH THEIR CLYDESDALES



Another year gone past so fast!

Early 2025, our horses qualified for the NZ Ploughing Champs in Middlemarch this year. Living in the North Island 'High Country' leaves us with very little flat land – especially finding a bit of land that we are prepared to plough up and can practise on.

It was so great to plough with other horse teams, as sadly we are on our own in the North Island with no other horse ploughing teams presently competing.

We learnt so much on the two practise days – only the 3rd time ploughing in stubble. Thank you so much to our competitors for helping us set up our plough in the different soil types.



We did not let the North Island down.



The boys attended a few shows, and an anniversary parade in October.



Then we did the big road trip.... we originally thought we would go down to Christchurch Show to help and then thought.... why not fill our float and enter.



Special thank you to Erin (Erewhon Station) for bringing the wee red wagon all the way over from Erewhon for us to use at the show.



Two weeks later, we packed up our bags & horses and had another road trip off to the Stratford (Royal) Show. That is a first for us – Two royal shows in two weeks!



December saw us doing wagon rides at our community Xmas get together, and then off to Fielding for their Annual Xmas Parade. The stagecoach was dragged out of the Coach House Museum and decorated; what a huge crowd!

We hope you had a Merry Christmas.



“POTO” – the bravest little horse by Dr Jacqueline Pryce

I am telling you this story because to this day, it is still so vivid in my mind as if it just happened yesterday.

It happened some 40 years ago when I was doing veterinary work experience as a final year student at a practice in Te Awamutu. The call came in to a very sick pony in the nearby Maori settlement of Te Mawhai. Excited about seeing an interesting case, I jumped into the ute with Steve, a well-respected and very experienced equine vet, and off we went.

Arriving at the given address, an abandoned old weather board cottage just over the railway lines, we couldn't see any sign of a horse or owner in the section or nearby. We waited a few minutes, before deciding to go and investigate the property. Then we heard a faint neigh and shuffling of hooves, coming from inside the dilapidated building. Carefully, we entered through a broken back door into what once was a living room, and there it was..... we were both overcome with emotions of shock, sadness and compassion when we saw the patient. A chocolate coloured Shetland type pony, in a ‘saw horse’ stance, neck stretched out, tail erect and third eyelid partially prolapsed. Although it was able to acknowledge our presence, it was unable to move. The expression of pain, anxiety and helplessness in the pony’s eyes was unforgettable. This unfortunate creature displayed all the classical symptoms of tetanus. Knowing the grave prognosis, even with intensive care and treatment, euthanasia seemed the kindest option.

But then his owner, and older Maori gentleman, turned up. Witnessing the pony’s reaction to his presence, despite its muscle rigidity and pain was surreal and we agreed to the owner’s plea, to try and save his equine friend, “Poto” (meaning “short” in Maori)

Treatment involves, finding and cleaning the wound, treating the infection with antibiotics, neutralising the toxin with intravenous anti-toxin, muscle relaxants, pain management, fluid administration, (intravenous and via nasogastric tube) and supportive therapy

Luckily, we had all the necessary medications on board to start treatment immediately. We visited every day. The owner barely left the pony’s side and was so committed to saving his friend’s life.

For the first week, there was practically no progress and every day the option of euthanasia was lurking in the background. But since the pony managed to stay on its feet with a will to survive, we persevered and then after about 10 days, the muscle spasms started to wane and the tail and jaw showed some relaxation.’ Poto’ now managed to swallow finely chopped up grass when put over the back of his tongue and washed down with some fluid syringed into its mouth. From this moment, we knew this brave little hero would be one of

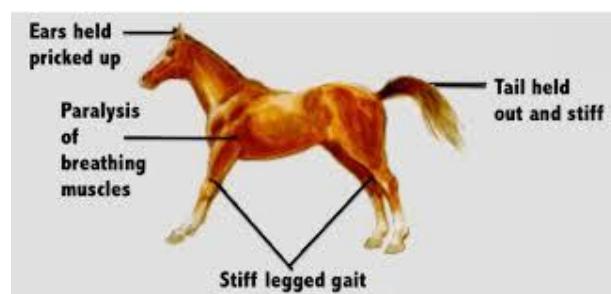
the miracle survivors of tetanus. There was steady improvement, gradually liberating the poor little horse from his painful muscle spasms.

After 3 weeks, he no longer required veterinary attention and his owner continued to nurse him for a couple more weeks, leading to a complete recovery.

P.S. Interestingly, “poto” also signifies “being complete/finished”

Tetanus in horses is a severe, almost always fatal neuromuscular disease. It is caused by the neurotoxin produced by bacteria (*Clostridium tetani*) entering even the tiniest of wounds, via spores found in the faeces and soil. Spores are resilient and can survive in the environment for several years. Tetanus is therefore not contagious.

Infection causes progressive muscle stiffness, spasms and paralysis, lockjaw, sawhorse stance, pricked ears, partial prolapse of the 3rd eyelid and an elevated tail.



Death is through respiratory failure as a result of a paralysed diaphragm.

Horses are highly sensitive. Prevention is key through regular vaccination as treatment of tetanus is prolonged, very intensive and not to mention really expensive.

Vaccination protocol involves two priming doses of Tetanus Toxoid, 4 weeks apart, followed by a booster 12 months later and every 5 years after that. Brood mares should be vaccinated 4 to 6 weeks prior to foaling.

Foals born from vaccinated mares should receive their first dose at 6 months of age, once colostral immunity has waned, with a follow-up dose 4 weeks later.

Foals born to unvaccinated dams or of unknown vaccination status, should get a dose of tetanus anti-toxin at birth to receive passive immunity and be vaccinated at 3 months of age, with 2 doses of tetanus toxoid, one month apart.

For more detail see

<https://www2.zoetis.co.nz/content/assets/PDFs/guidelines.pdf>

Strangles by Dr Jacqueline Pryce

In contrast to tetanus, strangles is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the upper respiratory tract, caused by *Streptococcus equi*. Horses of all ages are susceptible but most commonly it occurs in young horses less than 2 years of age.

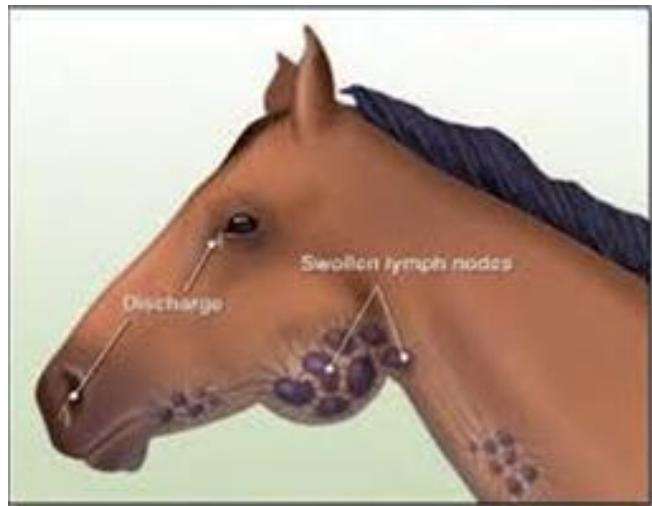
It is endemic in the New Zealand horse population and occurs sporadically.

At the beginning of 2025, there have been several confirmed cases of strangles in the South Island, namely Canterbury, Otago and Southland.

Risk factors include high stocking density, frequent travel, participation at events and contact with unknown horses. Symptoms occur 3 to 8 days after exposure.



Infection causes fever, nasal discharge and difficult breathing as a result of swollen lymph nodes in the head and neck, which eventually form abscesses and burst. Hence the name "strangles".



In rare cases the infection spreads to lymph nodes in other parts of the body, forming abscess and eventually rupturing releasing pus into surrounding tissues. This development is termed "bastard strangles". It is very difficult if not impossible to treat and hence carries a high mortality rate.

Although the majority of horses recover completely, 10-25% may become asymptomatic – long-term carriers by harbouring the bacteria in the guttural pouches. These can only be detected by taking a swab directly from the pouch.

Natural immunity from an infection is variable and can last from as little as 6 months to 4 years.

Transmission is via direct nose to nose contact and often through contaminated items such as hands, grooming gear, feed buckets etc. Bacteria can survive in the environment in wet cold conditions for a few weeks, making good hygiene, quarantine and isolation of affected horses, absolutely crucial, to prevent the rapid spread and a potential epidemic.

Treatment involves supportive therapy, reducing fever and discomfort, managing appetite and in some cases, administration of antibiotics. In advanced cases, where there is abscessation of lymph nodes, poulticing and surgical drainage of abscesses may be required.

Vaccination is effective, although not 100% but will significantly reduce the severity of an infection. It is recommended for all horses at studs, training facilities, during travel and eventing.

Current recommended Vaccination protocol

- Unvaccinated horses or horses of unknown immunity: 3 doses 2 weeks apart followed by 6 to 12 monthly boosters, depending on risk factors.
- Broodmares: 6-12 monthly boosters once primed, given 4 to 6 weeks before foaling.
- Foals of vaccinated dams, 3 priming doses starting at age of 3 months.

For further details see:

<https://www2.zoetis.co.nz/content/assets/PDFs/guidelines.pdf>



SILVERSTREAM CLYDESDALES from Susie Izard and Cate Smith.

In September we were approached by Country Life on RNZ to talk about our fledgling Clydesdale tourism business and our horses. The weather could not have been worse, and it was the only time we covered them all winter (they have sheds) 1 scruffy and cold after the endless mud, but it wasn't TV.

Part from incorrect info at the beginning of the article (only Clydesdale people would know it was wrong!) we were relieved that we weren't pitched as something we are not.

The frustrating thing is that so much audio is edited out as we had specifically mentioned our wonderful Clydesdale mentors here in Canterbury.

Cate said I was to do all the talking but ended up being the main interviewee which was a relief as she knows so much more than me after working at Erewhon Station.

Mark Leishman was very nice to talk to while his microphones were under ours and the horses' noses.

We didn't realise it would go into newspapers as well, so it's been great publicity for Silverstream Clydesdales.

Another interesting point that ended up on the cutting room floor, was that after discovering one of our mares had a heavy worm burden, we bought a good microscope and McMaster slide and are doing our own faecal egg counts.

This has resulted in not drenching three horses and keeping a closer eye on the other four. We can see what type of drench has worked without the high cost and delay using the vets.

We have four-year-old Basil up and running under saddle (thanks Cate!)

In October Glen Lie Emily gave us a filly, Silverstream Violet, by Viking from Erewhon Station.

After foaling Basil ourselves we decided there would be less stress foaling Emily at Wai Eyre Stud north of Christchurch. Ultimately a great choice as, like Betty, she retained her placenta. We have no equine vets locally.

I took Billy and Betty to the Orari Gorge Station open day as living history exhibits amongst their fascinating collection of original station buildings. They have wonderful amounts of old harness and a forge.

L-R Susie, Basil, Cate , dog and Mark Leishman



TINWALD FARM by Amanda Currie

Tinwald Farm's seven Clydesdale horses are ambassadors for a very modern form of farming. As a no-till, regenerative farm, horses are not used to plough or cultivate soil. Instead, our focus is on protecting soil structure and feeding the vast microbial communities that underpin healthy, resilient landscapes.

The Clydesdales play a vital role through their manure, which forms a key ingredient in a biologically complete compost which is made at the farm. This compost is carefully made to support high diversity and abundance of beneficial soil microbes and is used to re-inoculate and regenerate soils across the farm and vineyards.

Beyond their contribution to soil health, the Clydesdales also pull carriages along farm tracks and through the vineyards, allowing visitors to experience them up close and to reflect on the quiet power and grace they embody. This work was featured on **Seven Sharp** in November, highlighting how heritage breeds can still play a meaningful role in progressive farming systems.



*L-R Amanda Currie, Blackwood Brooke & Tegan McLeod,
Tegan is the resident soil scientist*



*Front: Tegan McLeod driving Blackwood Brooke
Rear: Zara MacDonald, Stable manager driving Erewhon Hamish*



Left: Erewhon Hannah

Right: Blackwood Brooke born 2008. By Rockwood Chieftain out of Maxwellton Belle.

Erewhon Hamish was born in 2016. By Aarunga Aussi Design out of Erewhon Hazel.

FEATURE STALLION ROYAL STEWART



Royal Stewart when he first came to New Zealand

Royal Stewart was bred by Alexander Stewart, Blueton, Braco, Perthshire. He was imported into New Zealand by Mr Bob McConachy of Palmerston North in 1978.

His registration (*25075 UK) Vol 85, *4724 NZ, Vol. 32
Foaled: 1977

Sire: Royal Bon-Accord (*25017 UK)

Dam: Blueton Pleasure (*74653 UK) by Muirton Security

He passed through several ownerships:

Bred by Alexander Stewart, Scotland

RR Scott, Scotland

Bob McConachy Palmerston North, NZ

Messrs. Holden, Pyke, Thorpe Bros and Reeves, Gisborne, NZ

JD Morgan, Gordonton, NZ

Leased July 1992-June 1993 to Derek Thornton, Te Kauwhata

R & M Cobb, Tauranga (Noted as deceased this entry)

He sired 36 registered fillies & 30 registered colts plus unknown numbers not registered or ineligible for registration.



Royal Stewart at the Palmerston North Show in 1986.

Some Progeny of Royal Stewart



Glendevon Commander Born 1983. Ex Donnybrook Donna.



Commodore Born 1980, ex Bath Farm Rowena



Belmont Royal Aragorn born 1981 ex Waimeha Joy



Glendevon Field Marshall born 1981 ex Kirsty Cameron



Rosemarkie Glendhu born 1983 ex Lynsdale Jenny



Lowlands Danny Boy Born 1983 ex Sunnybrae Rose



Belmont Royal Anderson Born c. 1980. Unregistered purebred gelding. Ex Waimeha Joy



Glendevon Hamish ex Champagne.



Royal Princess Born 1980 ex Komako Phyllis



Murrayfield Princess Lily Born 1983. Ex Waimeha Marsha.



Belmont Royal Bess Born 1982. Ex Waimeha Joy. 4 times Royal Show Champion female



Bonnie DOB unknown. Approx 1979. Out of a 7/8 Clydesdale mare.

Barellan's Good Old Day's Festival, 3-5th October 2025

By Sue Butterick-Kent

Paul Power said to me, "You should go to Barellan, you would enjoy it". "Too hot" I replied.

"Oh no, it was 24°C when I was there", he replied. So, I did go and it was 32°C!!

The travel agent booked for us. Tim Peel appointed Sarah as Judge of the Clydesdale section, Emma and her girls packed their bags, and we flew to Melbourne, picked up the campervan and started driving.

On the way, we visited a friend on his farm and drove the van into his shed for the night. That was fortunate because a rainstorm started and it thundered down above us but we stayed dry but cold because the van's bedding was thin and sparse. The next night we borrowed duvets and extra pillows. We were in 8 or 9°C and fortunately had taken some cold weather clothing. We spent a day at Sovereign Hill and were taken under at least 3 guides' wings, shown around, visited the resident Saddler and sat by his fire to warm up.

Next morning we drive up to Barellan in the 6-berth campervan full of 6 people and luggage. Near our destination, we followed waggon wheels tracks on the road and knew we were on the right road. After parking up, we were informed the ablution block was bigger, better, lots of hot water and lights. Near dusk the lights went out and the water stopped ...

too many people. They simply waited around greeting and meeting everyone else. Sarah had her own Glamping Tent while we spread a little more in the van.

Judging started 8.30 in the morning and was finished by lunch time, with approximately 15 horses. Sarah thoroughly enjoyed herself, judging was laid back, quite a variation of horses in size and type, also the handlers' ability. Some showed their ring experience and others didn't. Judging was not easy.

She enjoyed the Junior Handler's class most because they were like sponges and tried their hardest to do what she wanted. Some exhibitors had travelled specifically to show their horses (one came up from Adelaide) but the atmosphere of Barellan was the drawcard. All were turned out very well (also the handlers) even with the red dust!

The Harness classes were great; well above NZ standards, particularly in training and turnout. They were a real pleasure for Sarah. The people really looked after Sarah in the ring, they made her feel so welcome, shared several brands of Insect Repellent, none of which kept the flies away. As the temperature by then was 32°C, the rest of us watched a little as we moved from gum tree to gum tree, seeking shade.



*Caitlin Armstrong paraded Wheelabarraback Flash Lizzie to win the Clydesdale mare 4 years and over. Second went to Sarah Williams and Jenal Cindy while in third was Billy Sheather and Heide Sarjon. Thank you to our guest judge **Sarah Kent**, of New Zealand.*

There was so much to see and do at the Festival; some of the family had a camel ride or two, watched camel races, shearing, harness, belts and whips for sale, the most wonderful paintings by Kathy Ellam (one with three grey

horses' heads, too large for our suitcases), metal horse stuff, farm stuff – all to be rummaged through and for sale. Australian Ladies Whip Cracking Champion, Emiliqua East, demonstrated whip cracking, along with explanations and

later she taught some whip control and cracking to children. Unfortunately, Sarah missed watching her and the chance to have a lesson.

The highlight for everyone was the team of **62 heavy horses harnessed to a laden Bennett wool wagon**. Australia had tried twice previously to break the big team record, but America got wind of it and broke the record a week prior ... this time they kept the number quiet and only announced it as the team was being harnessed.

When all were ready, the crowd quietened so Aleks Berzins could call to his leaders, Hank, Lady, Digger and Margaret and they moved the team forward. As the horses moved forward, they pulled the drivers on the wagon into clouds of thick, dry, throat clogging dust which then travelled round the track with them.

The horses comprised registered and unregistered Clydesdales, Australian Draught Horses, Suffolk Punch, Shires and Percherons owned by Aleks Berzins, Bruce Bandy, Steve Johnson, Jason Gavenlock, Cowra, NSW, Allison Prentice, Kamarah, NSW, and Heather McFarlane, Barnawartha, Vic.

Hank, Lady, Digger and Margaret lead the way➤

Owned by Ian Dahlenburg, Murramai, NSW, the historic Australian built Bennett waggon weighed 3.8 tonnes and was loaded with wool from the Flagg family, Mooboolool, NSW, to give a **total weight of 10.2 tonnes**.

The huge team was driven under voice command, with no outriders or handlers, four times around the 800m track over the two days. We could feel the pride rippling through the crowd watching ... they were thrilled to see this wonderful feat of horsemanship and a record broken which probably won't be done again. The organisers feared that America might object to the record because not every horse had reins, they were not lead nor had riders to direct them. However, Dick Sparrow's daughter phone Barellan, congratulating them on their achievement and offered some of her father's team memorabilia. What a lovely gesture! Dick Sparrow set the first record with 40 horses, in July 1972.



◀ A view from above

While the spotlight was firmly on the horses, a new modern Australian record was quietly broken by a **huge team of 40 bullocks**. Bullock driver Phil Thomson OAM, of Numinbah Valley, Queensland, teamed up with fellow Queensland bullocky, Matt Stanford, Darcy Quinn, of Adelong, NSW, and Joey Reedy, of Forbes, NSW, to create the composite team.

The team comprised dairy breed and beef cross bullocks pulling a Bennett tabletop wagon loaded with wool bales.

The 40 head eclipsed the previous record of 28 set and set a new Australian record for the 21st century on October 4, 2025.



FACTS:

* A record gate of **10,000 visitors** and **more than 1000 caravans** and campers from around the national and overseas. Many visitors travelled by horsepower to the event including a **wagon train of 13 vehicles, 30 horses and 40 people making a nine-day journey from Stockinbingal to Barellan**.

* 650 Camp meals were cooked, and Bernadette Irvin cooked all the dessert on her own - that's a huge amount of sticky date pudding!

* Barellan CWA branch members baked and sold **2988 scones** in the traditional wood fired stoves.

* **Number of horses:** 62 - a total of 15 spans of four with two in the shafts

Drivers: Aleks Berzins, Bruce Bandy, Steve Johnson

Brake: Shane Carroll "Banjo" was one of the shafters.

Waggon: Bennett tabletop wool/wheat waggon built by James and George Bennett, St Mary's, NSW, Australia, now owned by Ian Dalhnenburg, Murramai, NSW. **Waggon weight unloaded:** 3800kg

Load: 32 bales of Merino wool weighing 200kg each supplied by the Flagg family, Mooboolool, NSW. Total weight of load 6400kg.

Total weight of waggon and load: 10,200kg

Length from leaders to drivers: 76 metres; **Length of chain:** 500m

Horses contributed by: Aleks Berzins, Bruce Bandy, Steve Johnson, Jason Gavenlock, Allison Prentice, Heather McFarlane.

Leaders: Hank, Lady, Digger and Margaret were guided by voice commands

Breeds involved: Australian Draught Horse, pure and part bred Clydesdale, Suffolk Punch, Percheron and Shire. The team travelled twice around the 800m trotting track of the Barellan showgrounds on Saturday and Sunday, October 4 & 5, 2025. There were no assistants leading the horses.



L. Emma, Charlotte Brockhurst and Sarah Kent,

waiting in the queue for the Camp Oven tea.

R. Tim Peel's video, premiered in the evening.

Right: Producer Ross Harmer, West Wyalong Movies, for his Australian premiere of the documentary "**Heavy horses and harness**" on Saturday night and featuring master horseman and harness maker Tim Peel.

Copies of the DVD are available at

www.westwyalongmovies.com



We have decided we need to return because there was so much we didn't see e.g. the Hobby Horse race, the Billy Tea Boiling competition, the Dog jumping, Sheaf tossing, the Farrier's demonstration, horse drawn implement demonstrations, (crop wasn't ready to head with the old Sunshine header) and many more things. We met Saddler, James Alcock but missed Mark Porter, although I chatted to Ian Stewart-Koster as he lined a water cart and Tony Reilly. We met some very friendly people. **"It's good to come here as people are the same like-minded species."** (Anon quote)

FEATURE MARE

ASHBURN DANIELLE

10841 Volume 32 Foaled 29 September 1977
Bred by EG Simmons, Property of DG Simmons 17/5/78
Leased to EG & VL Simmons from 1991 -1996.

Danielle



1981 **Fenview O'Connors Dale**, filly by Aarunga Duke



1982 Colt by Silver Lining. Only survived a short time. Had heart trouble.

1983 **Ashburn Laddie's Dan**. A colt by Highland Laddie.

1984 **Fenview Danella** by Tokomairiro Enterprise.



1985 **Fenview Delphine**, filly by Tokomairiro Enterprise



1986 **Fenview Douglas Choice**, colt by T. Enterprise

1987 **Fenview Debby**, filly by Tokomairiro Enterprise

1988 Colt, by T. Enterprise, died with heart problems

1989 & 1990 unmated

1991 **Ashburn Murray's Pride**, colt by T Enterprise



1992 **Ashburn Sensational Dancer**, filly by Ashburn Bardrill Sensation.



1993 Unmated

1994 **Ashburn Damascus**, colt by Sir Wiremu



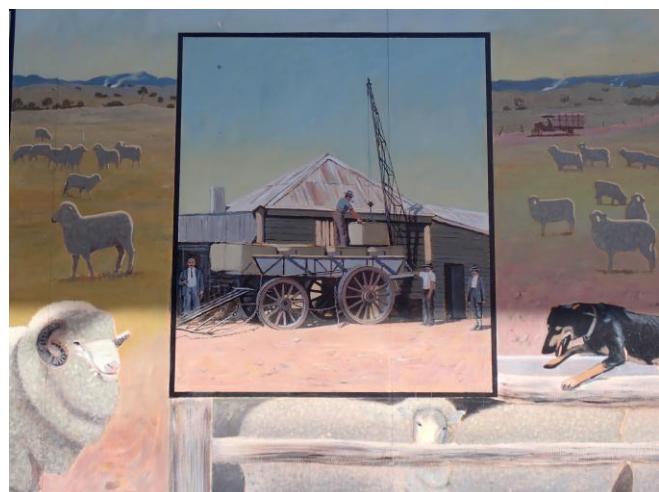
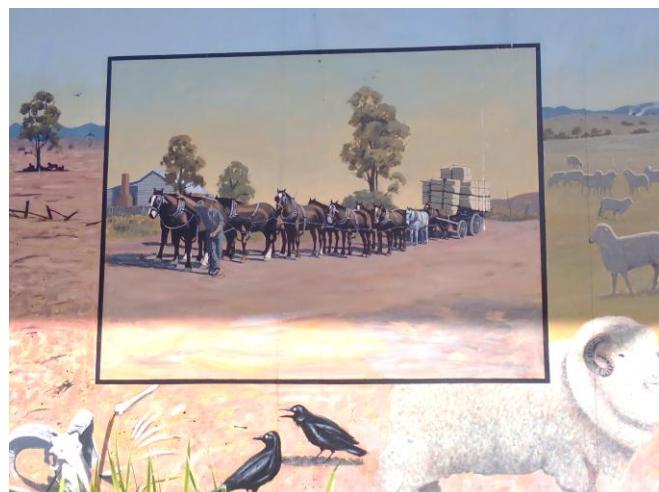
1995 Unmated

1996 **Ashburn Braveheart**, colt by Donnybrook McGillicuddy



▲Mural of the Carlton Brewery team on the wall of the Courthouse Hotel (now known as the Courty Hotel) at Charters Towers, Queensland. The Hotel is over 137 years old.

Below are two of a series of murals painted on the sides of railway wagons, permanently parked up at Clermont in Queensland ▾



A BIT OF HISTORY

SALE OF CLYDESDALE STALLIONS

National Library *Papers Past*, Bruce Herald, 21 March 1907

The Otago Farmers' Co-operative Association of New Zealand report one of the largest sales of Clydesdale entire colts that has taken place in Otago, the buyers being a well-known Australian trader and a New Zealand West Coaster. These horses are all highly bred, sires and grandsires coming from the best Clydesdale stud in Scotland.

Fifteen Clydesdale stallions changed hands during the week at prices satisfactory to vendors and buyers. Nearly all the purchases were made from the far-famed Taieri breeders. The horses are for export to Australia. The names of the vendors and short pedigrees are as under:

For Mr John Clark (Waitaki): Brown colt Glengarry, three years off, sired by Gleniffer, dam Rose, by Ingievar.

For Mr Robert Charters (Ury Park): Black colt rising three years, sire The McKenzie, dam Florentine, by No Surrender; bay colt, rising three years, sired by the McKenzie, dam Jean, by Lord Lyon.

For Mrs Kennedy Ferguson (Waitaki): brown colt Prince John, three years off, sired by Albin's Prince, dam Dora, by Wallace.

For Mr James Patrick (Lee Creek, West Taieri): Bay colt, rising 3 years, sired by Garthland, dam by Colin Prince; bay colt, rising three years, sired by Merry Morning, dam by McArthur.

For Mr James W. Blair (West Taieri): roan colt, rising three years, sired by Cedric the Saxon, dam by The McKenzie; bay colt rising three years, sire Resolution, (imp), dam by King of the Clans.

For Messrs Webster and Callendar (Allanton): Bay colt, rising three years, sired by Merry Morning, dam Taieri Rose.

For Messrs P and A Robertson (Outram): Brown colt rising three years, sired by Harry McArthur, dam Pride by Royalist.

For Mr Robert Gawn, (Deer Park, North Taieri): Bay colt rising 3 years, sired by Pride's Fancy, dam by Lord Lyon.

For Messrs Imrie and Gawn (North Taieri): Bay colt rising three years, sired by North Star, dam by Craigievar.

For Mr WR Gawn (North Taieri): Bay colt rising three years sired by Prince Alexander, dam Nell by Lion King.

For Mr John Craig (Kirkwood, Mosgiel): Bay stallion, Field Marshall, by Lord Churchill, dam Blossom by Lord Chelmsford.

For Mr J Christie, (Allanton): Bay colt, Taieri Lad three years off, sired by Cedric the Saxon, dam Jean, by Tyn Holm.

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