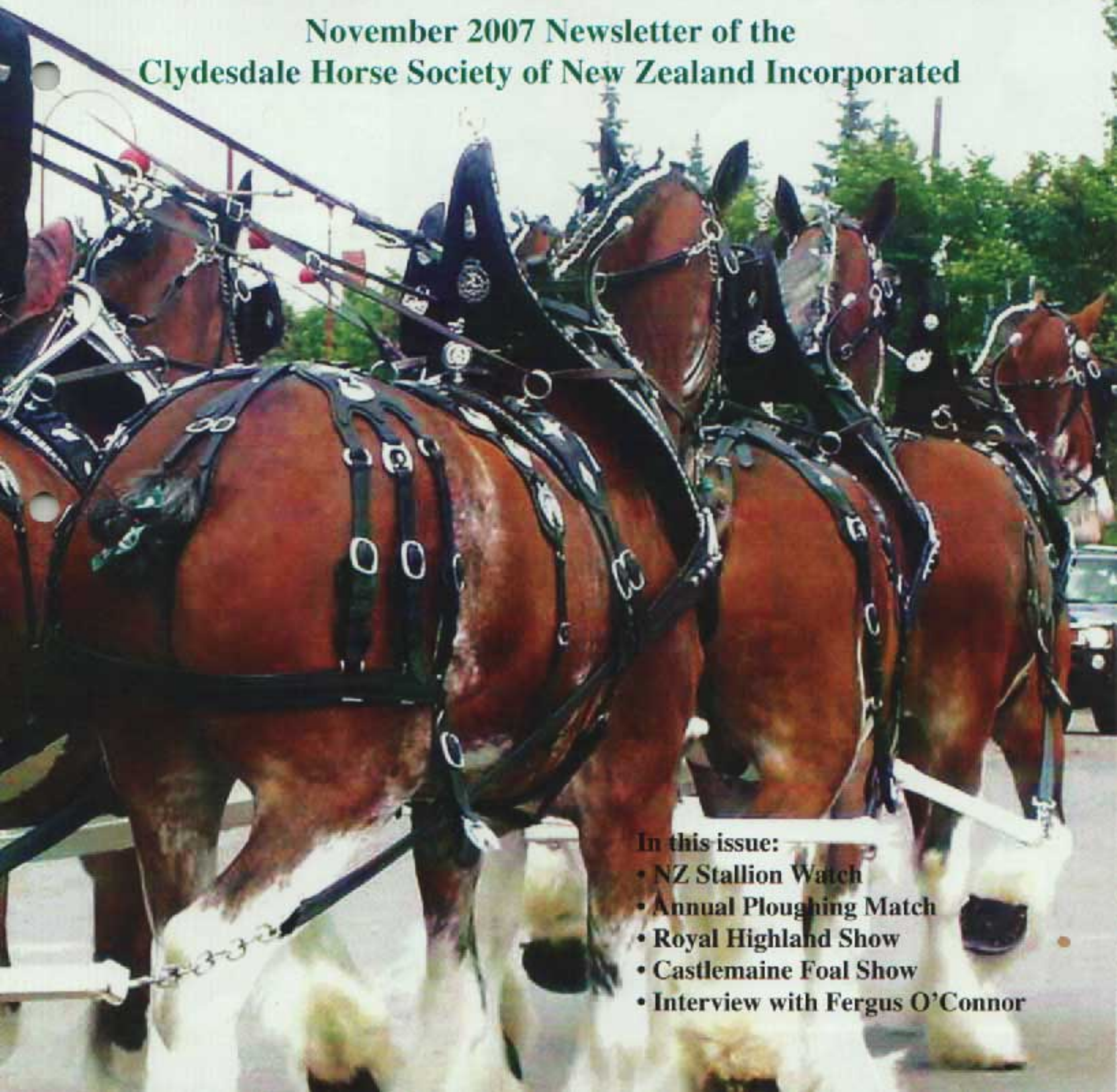


# CLYDESDALE ~ TRIBUNE ~



**November 2007 Newsletter of the  
Clydesdale Horse Society of New Zealand Incorporated**



**In this issue:**

- NZ Stallion Watch
- Annual Ploughing Match
- Royal Highland Show
- Castlemaine Foal Show
- Interview with Fergus O'Connor

# CLYDESDALE TRIBUNE

## EDITORIAL

Welcome everyone to the second edition of the Clydesdale Tribune. In this issue we have a look at stallions throughout the country. Thanks to all the people that have forwarded their stallions details and pictures – I hope it is a useful resource and one that we can repeat again in the future.

I'd also like to thank the Cottle family for their interesting article about The Royal Highland Show, Alan Vliet Vlieland for his article about the Annual Ploughing Match, Fergus O'Connor for the interview I compiled, Dan Dufty for the Devonport wagon photos on the back cover and Bruce Macdonald (my globetrotting farrier) for the Calgary Stampede front cover pic and the Gatton pictures. Last thankyou goes to Phil Amberger for his excellent hospitality while I was in Nelson.

With the Royal Show (and many other A&P shows) happening over the next few months this is a busy time for many of us. Good luck to all the competitors – lets make this season one that makes the general public sit up and take notice of our most endearing breed and take pride of place as they deserve.

Once again I ask you all to support our advertisers wherever possible and urge you to send in your stories and pictures to Kia Kaha Stud 173 Inland Road Helensville or [kkstudio@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kkstudio@xtra.co.nz). It would be great to see a "Letters to the Editor" section in future issues and I invite you all to contribute.

For those of you with or expecting new foals – I hope you get that Supreme Champion or top working horse you've been hoping for - but if not perhaps take a look at our stallion feature and rectify things next year.

*Paul Stroobant*

### CLYDESDALE HORSE SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

#### PRESIDENT

KG Gillman  
560 Ashley Rd  
RD1 Rangiora  
03 312 5239

#### SECRETARY

VL Simmons  
592 Piako Rd  
RD1 Hamilton  
07 824 3813

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

In their usual style our friends in Canterbury turned on the most wonderful hospitality for the Annual Meeting and field day. The AGM was well supported by both the North and South Island people, with plenty of



**Jim & Deborah Cook - Woodbury Clydesdale Stud.**

discussion at the meetings and afterwards over the meal tables and bars.

The Saturday trip was well supported with a very full



**Hawkins Family - Glen Lie Stud.**

bus load and several cars following, visiting the Studs of the Hawkins (Glen Lie), Gillmans (Millcreek), Cooks (Woodbury) and Power (Braeburn).

Thank you to our hosts and stud owners for opening up their properties and allowing others to view your prized possessions, all the Clydesdales, wagons, harness, implements, vintage vehicles, steam engines, gardens and other bits and pieces.

It is a very great privilege to be allowed on to these properties and we were made to feel so very welcome by all. Thank you Canterbury people.

From off the desk the registrations and transfers have

been arriving constantly. When you experience a delay in the return of paperwork just remember that July and August are the busiest times for the Clydesdale Society deskwork which just happen to coincide with the busy time on my sole charge dairy farm (those happy little events called calves).

For those of you who have trouble in reaching me, the best time to telephone me is in the evening at about 7.30pm to 9pm. My computer is now on satellite (the dial up was next to useless) and the email address is [ashburnstud@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ashburnstud@xtra.co.nz)

Listed below are new members whom we welcome and hope they make some Clydesdale friends both human and equine species.

Carol Wilson Opotiki  
Trish McGuigan New Plymouth  
Fiona Warnock Whitianga  
Fiona and Robert Beale Wairoa  
Dean McHardy Gisborne  
Brad Denton Cambridge  
Vanessa Fenemor Drury  
Carly Gray Waipukurau

The Stud Book Volume 38 is progressing well. Please send your advertisements, photos, and registrations as soon as possible. I would like to go to publishers about January and will do so if you get the information in to me.

Please support our Clydesdale Tribune. It is no mean feat to publish a newsletter and Paul will appreciate all the help and articles available.

We do need sponsorship and donations to keep up the good standard Paul achieved in the first one. You may know of a firm or business that would like to advertise or donate. Please send all newsletter related items directly to Paul.

### EXPERIENCE THE WHEELWRIGHT SHOP

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## STALLION WATCH



### Fellbeck Thomas

*By Ashburn Murrays Pride out of Royal Dawn*  
Service fee \$800.00 exclusive gst with a live foal guarantee.

**Contact:** Derrick Thornton 07 827 2755,  
021 885 231  
or Fred Pilling 07 829 7032.

### Murroka Douglas

*Imp. by Balwill Knockout - Dam Aarunga Stephanie.*  
Service fee by negotiation

**Contact:** Janet & Bill Affleck  
Phone 03 204 8243



### Armageddon Lord Samson (Imp USA)

*(Broadlea Classic Joe x Armageddon Mistress Delilah)*  
17.2hh jet Black Clydesdale Stallion imported from the prizewinning Armageddon Stud in America. Samson is a beautiful looking horse, perfect markings matched with lovely conformation, bone and feature. Absolutely fantastic nature which is passing through all of his progeny.  
\$850 + gst (incl LFG)

**Contact:** Pirongia Clydesdales  
Nick or Jill van der Sande  
(07) 8719711, 021 771927  
pirongia.clydesdales@xtra.co.nz  
www.clydesdales.co.nz

### Narioka Vagabond (Imp)

*By Narioka Diplomat out of Narioka Virtue*  
Service fee \$750.00 inclusive of gst - half to be paid when the mare is served and the other half when the mare is scanned in foal.

**Contact:** Paul Power (03)3279974,  
Fergus Oconner (03)5442770,  
Colin Drummond (03)3039739.





### Our Ben.

Reg no 5146, Vol 37.  
At stud in Otorohanga.

**Contact:** Tania and Hamish Chisholm 07) 873 6500.

### Rockwood Chieftain

*Sire: Rockwood Duke*

*Dam: Rockwood Blossom*

Fee \$500 + gst

**Contact:** G&J Pryce, Cambridge  
07 823 3205



### Taungatara Supremes Victory

Reg #: 5035 Vol 36

*Sire: Ashburns Sensational Supreme*

*Dam: Taungatara Kate*

17hh

Service fee: \$850.00+gst

**Contact:** Victory Stud Equine  
State Highway 1, Cambridge, New Zealand  
078232331 , victorystud@xtra.co.nz

### Rockwood Gallant Lad

*Sire: Rockwood Baron*

*Dam: Duncan Valley Tradition*

Fee \$500 + gst

**Contact:** Ian Gould  
03 688 2882  
0274 357 397



### Ashstencroft Trojan

*Sire: Rockwood Baron*

*Dam: Duncan Valley Tawney (Imp)*

Fee \$500 + gst

**Contact:** Rod Kraal  
0274 465 434

## ROYAL HIGHLAND SHOW 2006

In June of last year, my wife Cheryl and I were in the United Kingdom and took the opportunity to visit Scotland's Royal Show, the Royal Highland Show which is held annually at Ingliston, Edinburgh. Prior to 1960, the Royal Highland Show was held at different venues throughout Scotland, however, in 1960 the venue was permanently located at Ingliston, where it has since remained.

For me, the Royal Highland Show was like the Christchurch Show (with its machinery and livestock) combined with the McKenzie Highland Show (with its hand craft and cottage industry), but on a much grander scale attracting some 160,000 visitors over the four days it was run. Many more attractions like a falconry display, hunting dog exhibitions, shearing and farriery competitions for both light and heavy horses also featured. I was informed that shoeing of the heavy horses is part of a farrier's apprenticeship in the U.K.

The Show runs over four days and the main attraction for the heavy horses are the hitch geldings (or 'Turn-out Classes'). Because of the demand for an upstanding horse that can step, the breeders have gone away from breeding the practical farm type horses, and have instead turned to taller more active horses. The turnout classes included single, pair, tandem, unicorn, four-horse team and six-horse team. The wagons and harness were all polished for the occasion and in keeping with the tradition of the trading days, a nose bag for each horse and one or two wooden water pales were slung underneath the rear of the wagon. One or two grooms (depending on the size of the team) accompanied the driver. The drivers and grooms were dressed in matching suits and hats, with bowler hats being mostly to the fore, complementing the appearance of the outfit.

The Highland Show has a large oval and the main entrance to it is from underneath the grandstand midway along the ring. The teams emerge from the entrance at a trot. The teamster then swings the leaders to his right with the wagons doing several laps of the oval at a fast trot while the judge stands in the centre. Also in the centre of the ring is the commentator with a portable microphone. She had done her homework and knew all the entries and their drivers and grooms as they came into the oval. An introduction to the history of the breed and the origin and purpose of the class was frequently presented.

When the judge was ready, he would call them into line, and the grooms (who had been either standing to the teamsters left holding on with the right hand, and placing their left hand behind their back; or occasionally sitting by the driver's side), would jump off the back of the wagon and run to the horses head as they pulled up

to a halt. After the judge had inspected all the harness and wagons in the line, he would bring them out one at a time and ask the driver to trot around in a figure of eight using the entire oval. You could see some of the teamsters 'winding' their horses up as they travelled away from the judge, aiming to get them into full flight as they were heading back towards him. A lot of the show collars had the top of the forewhale specially fashioned to accommodate a bearing rein which was attached to a bearing bit (not the driving bit). It was adjusted to bring all the horses' heads to approximately the same height, encouraging the horses to 'step out' evenly across the ring.

I will always remember the 'thump, thump, thump' of these geldings as they came into the ring from under the main grandstand, the boldness and courage in the manner of which some of the leaders possessed (especially in the tandem and unicorn hitches), and also the skill of the top drivers.

Along with the hitch classes, is a 'Farm Cart' class, in which a single horse is turned out in a farm vehicle (usually a block dray or wagon). The effort and detail gone into the presentation of these turnouts is equal to that of the hitch classes, with all drivers dressed in traditional farm attire (tweed jackets and caps) and the harness suited to the purpose of the job at hand (block harness).

This year for the first time at the Royal Highland Show, a Stallion Cart class was introduced. This class is frequently seen throughout shows in the U.S.A. The carts are built in a similar style to a gig, that is big enough to fit a good sized gelding between the shafts and was traditionally used to lead a stallion around the district during the stud season. The class was judged in a small outside ring with the geldings trotting around, and judged similar to the way a gig class is judged.

There was also a class for ridden heavy horses. There were 18 in the class and these were judged at three paces, walk, trot and canter. Every horse was also ridden by the judge in all three gaits before his decision was made.

In 2006, there were no stallion classes at the Royal Highland Show. They have their own National Stallion Show which is held around March of every year. Along with the in hand breed classes, Young Handler and Presentation classes also featured.

Because it has been illegal for some time to dock a horse in the U.K., no horse is accepted in any class that has had its tail docked. They still plait the Clydesdales in the traditional way and shave the remainder of the dock. You tend to get used to it after a while. The Suffolk Punch horses had their tails braided from

the base of the dock to the end, the plait then pulled back up towards the base of the dock in a rather neat fashion. There were only two Suffolk Punch horses at the show, both very heavy geldings. They came out in a traditional heavy English Farm wagon which had been restored. Because of the type of hitching, they always travelled at a walk, the same as we do in New Zealand.

There was also a team of Shires competing in the turnout classes. A lot of the modern Shires are quite athletic, quality horses, not the old coarse boned type that carried a lot of feather. There has been an infusion of Clydesdale blood into the breed over the last 50 years or so.

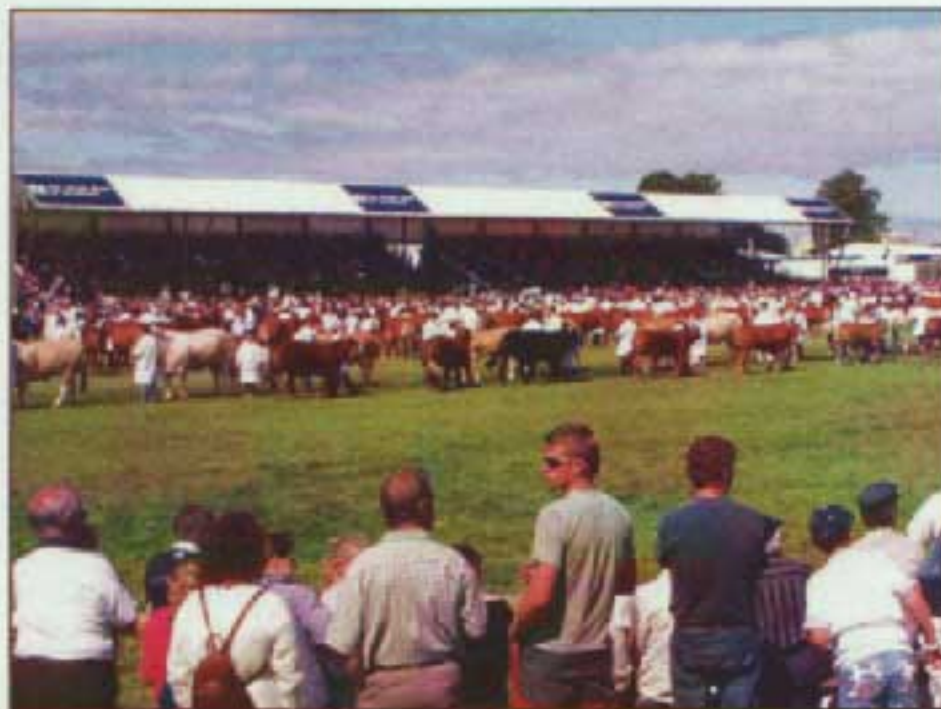
The Scottish folk are very much traditionalists and still celebrate their native animal breeds with much enthusiasm and passion. Along with the Clydesdales, the Highland pony is another Scottish breed greatly cherished. The Highland ponies are the native horse of the mountain areas of Scotland and are descendents of the crofters' ponies used in the Scottish Highlands. Before the coming of good roads 200 years ago, their use was as a pack animal for transport and working the land, also being used to pull carts and other wheeled vehicles. For the last 170 years, Highland ponies have been the main means of transporting deer and other game off the hill using special pack saddles, as well as being used for all kinds of riding and driving. These ponies appeared to be strong, heavily built animals standing approximately 13 to 14.2hh high and capable of travelling over rugged terrain and surviving harsh climates. In traditional fashion, they were exhibited in full dress and attire, reminiscent of their pack horse job in the Highlands.

All in all, we both had an enjoyable time and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of the Show. The atmosphere of the show and the hospitality of the Scottish people certainly made it a highlight of our trip. We would recommend the attendance of the Royal Highland Show to anyone visiting the U.K. during June.

*John Cottle*



**Heavy Horse Pairs Turnouts.** First place (left); Tom and Ben driven by Hugh Ramsey (Millisle Clydesdales). Second place (right); Redcastle Casper and Redcastle Levi (Mr. Peter O Stirling). *Photo courtesy CM Cottle*



**View of the Showground oval, during the beef cattle parade.** *Photo courtesy HJ Cottle*



**First Place Heavy Horse Turnout Tandems driven by Hugh Ramsey.** *Photo courtesy CM Cottle*



**CHAMPION Heavy Horse Turnout.** Ron Brewster driving John Anderson's 'Redcastle' six horse hitch. *Photo courtesy H.J. Cottle*

# CANTERBURY CLYDESDALE CLUB ANNUAL

The Canterbury Clydesdale Club held their annual ploughing match at the 15th of July in Horrellville, 8 km southeast of Oxford. This event is for the last few years held together with the "North Canterbury Ploughing Match Association" Annual match.

Again the Briden family was very generous with making land available at Poyntzs road for this event. Of course, last year the 2006 Silver plough event was held here too.

The Saturday was set aside for practice, and warming up of the teams. With eighteen Clydesdale in action it was truly a beautiful site. With for many of the teams the first outing of the year, there was a lot of fine tuning to do. But with plenty of land available, this was not a problem.

On the Sunday the teamsters and Clydesdales woke up to, an other, crisp and beautiful Canterbury winters day. Seven teams prepared themselves to take part in the match, with one six horse team of Colin Drummond, and six two horse teams, Paul Power, Ian McMillan, K Gordon, Snow Cleaver, Alan Vliet Vlieland and Ian Tooley.

The match was followed by a lot of spectators, and with the vintage and modern tractors in the background everything was in place for a truly spectacular scene.

For the record;

## **FIRST PLACE MULTI HORSE TEAM**

"Colin Drummond"

## **FIRST PLACE TWO HORSE TEAM**

"Snow Cleaver"

## **SECOND PLACE TWO HORSE TEAM**

"Paul Power"

## **THIRD PLACE TWO HORSE TEAM**

"Ian McMillan"

A big thank you to all the people who helped the teamsters on those two days, without their help it would be impossible to enjoy these events.

*Alan Vliet Vlieland.*



Colin Drummond



Paul Power

# PLOUGHING MATCH



Colin Drummond



Alan Vliet Vlieland

## FOR SALE.....

### PAIR SET OF SAMSON LEATHER HARNESS

Quality pair set of pole harness for a pair of heavy horses without breeching. Made by the Amish (America) therefore top quality, strong and durable leather. In beautiful condition, has been very well looked after. Features brass fittings and decoration – very nice harness suitable for heavy work or show. Collars and bits not included.

• POA

### PAIR SET OF LEATHER SHOW HARNESS (EX. DB)

Absolutely stunning pair set of leather draft show harness handcrafted by John Simpson (Jaison). Finished with English patent leather and brass fittings. In good condition. Once in a lifetime opportunity to purchase some outstanding harness. Bits and Scotch collars not included but may be available at an extra cost. Fantastic opportunity for the keen heavy horse enthusiast.

• POA

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### WANTED

Reg Clydesdale colt foal,  
or well handled yearling  
suitable for breeding.

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### HORSE EXPO 2007

The Clydesdale Horse Society of NZ (Inc) has been invited to hold a show and or exhibition at this promotional event.

**Date:** Saturday April 5 2007

**Venue:** Helensville A&P Showgrounds

Interested parties contact

**Paul Stroobant at Kia Kaha Stud**

**Phone 09 420 4919**

## CASTLEMAINE

### 29TH ANNUAL APRIL FEATURE SHOW

Sunday 22nd April 2007.

Judge Mr Colin Cox.

#### CLASS 1. Colt Foal born prior to 1st Nov 2006

- 1st: Aarunga Turbine (x Benwerrin Turbo) A.T. Marriot & Sons.
- 2nd: Jika Farm Hamish Mac (x Hillside Lorton Legend) A & Y Vlarke
- 3rd: Aarunga Flash Nicholas (x Greendykes Benji) A.T. Marriot & Sons.
- 4th: Evron Gulla Beau (x Valmont Daktari) I. Feldtmann

#### CLASS 2. Colt Foal born after 1st Nov 2006

- 1st: Aarunga Designer (x Aarunga Scottish Design) A.T. Marriot & Sons
- 2nd: Beereega Lord Carrick (x Balwill Everlasting) Louise Beer.

#### CLASS 3. Filly Foal born prior to 1st Nov 2006

- 1st: Beereega Charming Lass (x Murroka Signature) Louise Beer
- 2nd: Northdale Park Summer (x Rosbercon Irish Storm) Rick Talbot

**CHAMPION FOAL** - Aarunga Turbine

**RESERVE CHAMP FOAL** - Jika Farm Hamish Mac

#### CLASS 9. Yearling Colt or Gelding

- 1st: Aarunga Master Ben (x Greendykes Benji) A.T. Marriot & Sons

#### CLASS 10. Yearling Filly

- 1st: Waverly Megan (x Rockwood Count) Kylie Heatherton

**CHAMPION YEARLING** - Aarunga Master Ben

**RESERVE CHAMP YEARLING** - Waverley Megan

#### CLASS 11. Junior Handler, 13-18yrs - No entries

#### CLASS 12. Junior Handler, under 13 yrs

- 1st: Claire Marriott

#### CLASS 13. Two Year Old Filly

- 1st: Jika Farm Evita (x Hillside Lorton Legend) A & Y Clarke
- 2nd: Waverley Carley (x Dillars Benedictine) Trevor McDonald.

**CHAMPION EXHIBIT** under 3 yrs - Aarunga Master Ben.

**RESERVE CHAMP** - Jika Farm Evita

#### CLASS 14. Mare 3 yrs and over

- 1st: Geldon Annabelle (x Murroka Challenge) Thelma Ronzio
- 2nd: Sarjon Park Phoebe (x Wallamba Clyde) Glen Pate

#### SUPREME CHAMPION CLYDESDALE EXHIBIT

- Geldon Annabelle

#### MOST SUCCESSFUL SIRE OF THE DAY

- Greendykes Benji

#### CLASS 18. Pair of Foals owned & bred by Exhibitor

- 1st: A.T. Marriot & Sons
- 2nd: Louise Beer
- 3rd: Rick Talbot.



Jika Farm Evita



Aarunga Turbine



Geldon Annabelle



Aarunga Master Ben

# FOR SALE WOOL WAGON

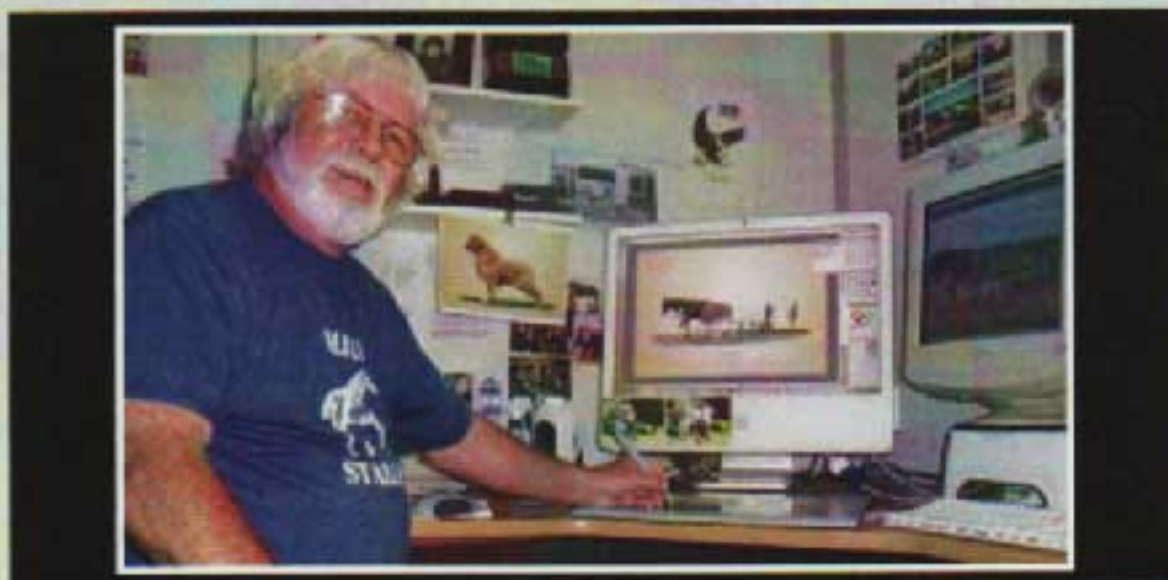


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'Collars & Show Harness'. other wagons, carts and gear available.



## Artist Profile

*I have been drawing and painting animals all of my life, then about 10 years ago I decided to join the modern world of technology and learnt the skills of operating a computer.*

*All of my artwork is created with the assistance of a special computer painter programme. The unique blended texture of my work is created by using custom designed airbrush tools which I control through a stylus pen and wacom table, from outside of the computer, so all of my work is hand drawn and painted.*

*Prints are of the highest quality, printed on gicl'ee canvas using special pigmented inks (lightfast) and coated with UV protection lacquer for stretch framing and are also available printed on cotton rag paper for traditional framing (life span 100 yrs). All prints are of limited edition with only 50 in anyone series.*

*Ray Erridge*

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# FERGUS

We start this interview with Fergus talking about the horses and judging at the Royal Melbourne Show "Generally speaking the Australian horses never overstep with their front foot, they can't do it because they haven't got the hocks to do it with, they let that go and the hocks



come out the back.

They will be leading them into the ring and the Judge will be talking to somebody, then a guy sends them over into a line, and he looks at the line. He never sees them walking out, they don't want the horses striding to see how far their stride is, see if you get them overstriding, well of course usually the bum will swing down and you will see it, but it's the one that just walks gracefully but still overstrides that's what you're looking for.

T. Besides your own, what are some good New Zealand bloodlines?

Simmons have got a mare from Sisams and Sisams had a registered stallion that they used, they went down south to the best stallions they could think of and they bred a lot of quality horses. Looking back they had a quality line of breeding horses, they were all quality Clydesdales for generations. It's a mare line you can breed from

and it can take a lot to break it down. Simmons have got this big wall eyed mare Kereru but they called her Tui which confused everybody and they got Daniel O'Connell, he was the first colt that I ever bred or sold, they bred 2 or 3 good mares from that mare and they were top quality mares, they kept two and they had another one by another horse that Tom Duxbury bred, anyway that was one good line.

The other people who had a wonderful line that is dominated by a Scottish line are the Logans, they had a dominant line of mares and got Craigie Ambassador and he was a big rough horse and all the old Scotsman in the south were pretty disappointed but they had this line of horses and they bred some good horses from them but in general terms I don't think he did a hell of a lot of good Craigie Ambassador.

T. What do you think is the best Stallion we have had in NZ?

F. Well it just depends on when you want to start from.

T. When did you start breeding?

F. 1949, I bought a horse in 49 - Croydon. Now he was an extra quality horse, he was too small really but I didn't get pedigree mares to put him to until 1954 I think and I had foals in 1955 and took yearlings to Christchurch 1956. Now quality wise a lot of old Scotsman just raved over him saying "50 years ago we never had better quality than that".

T. Do you think that Croydon was as good as the ones you have had over the recent years?

F. Well they all go back a bit to Croydon you see, he was a total top quality horse. But he was a bit too light. I bred Annabelle and Ruby and Colleen.

They were the only ones, another filly died, then he died and I stupidly went and brought this big horse from Australia, a big ugly horse and he put me back quite a long way, he put the movement, the usefulness and everything back, he was by Craigie Superb, Scottish Blood but it was only until the mid 70's that I was lucky enough to get Sandy Erskin back again.

T. So he is up there with the best Stallions? As good as Croydon?

F. That is the mare line that I gave you. That first year I bred Donnybrook Daniel O'Connell, he went up north. McCullum brought him first, bred a mare and Susan Butterick got the progeny and that put her on a very good basis.

T. Was that Highland Laddie?

F. Yes well he was the next one. Susan Butterick had Shandy, Shandy was by a Daniel O'Connell Colt.

Shandy was a pretty good horse really, top draft horse and they won a lot of prizes with her, she was a good horse to base a breed from. Then the next year I bred Castle Island and he was out of a mare that had impeccable breeding, but she was too long in the hind pasterns but she just bred this Castle Island and he was nearly everything, he had quality hair, feet, everything, he wasn't that big, but I had Croydon and Charlie McCullum came up and bought yearlings two years in a row. Castle Island put Charlie McCullum on the map. The Dalzells together with Charlie McCullum have had very good horses and I think, if you go backwards there were quality mares for several generations and that is still showing through in the show rings now. I put it down to Castle Island.

T. How about a word of advice for budding breeders looking to develop their own good line?

F. Well I took notice of this Stallion owner in Havelock who had some good horses and he advised me. He initially brought Croydon and he wanted to sell him and I bought him, I thought that he was far too small but I took him and then I realised that I had got probably the leading quality breeding horse in NZ, and then he was at the time I think, but as the Logans would have said there wasn't enough substance in his horses but when you got the right mare to him he bred quality. You see Daniel O'Connell bred a lot of good horses up north in South Auckland. George Simmons got him back when he was quite old.

George had an inherent ability in my opinion to pick what ought to be done but like everyone else he asked the old scotchman, the last of the old Scotch stallion owners in the Waikato. He advised him to get Daniel O'Connell.

Soundness is what you have got to watch with some breeds but that Bard to the right horses he bred some quite good horses, good mares.

T. How about your current 'line' of horses?



**Phil Amberger with 2 of Fergus's young colts.**



**"Current stallion at Fergus's Donnybrook Stud - Narioka Vagabond"**

ably as pure Clydesdale for carrying on as you get and what they have thrown to this present stallion (Narioka Vagabond) are a little bit better quality than him, Melbourne's will be better quality when it is grown up, the other one will be about the same as him.

T. Where would you like to see the breed in 20 years time?

F. I would like to see them breeding the type of Clydesdale we were breeding and giving the prizes to in the 50's and 60's.

T. How would you compare those horses with the ones we have today? How were they different?

F. I suppose the best comparison, illustration was I was walking along the Melbourne Show grounds with the old Scotch judge John Young and I said to him there are four horses here - Marriots have got them, the breweries have got them too but the Marriots in particular, I know the breed. I said they are just about the epitome of the Clydesdale breed, those geldings, 17 hand geldings, they way they moved and beautiful quality. The old joker said "They are too small" and he said "I can sell a big horse but I can't sell a small one, so what's the good of breeding a small one", so that is the summary.

T. So I suppose the dollar rules?

F. I suppose it sort of has to in the finish, you are dealing with a lot of scotch people who have never put a collar on a horse in their lives you see, if it gets a prize it's a good horse.

T. What is your proudest moment as a Clydesdale breeder?

F. I suppose one of the times was when I went to the Christchurch show with the first yearling by Donnybrook Daniel O'Connell and got champion stallion with him, with a yearling, he was outstanding. That was what Croydon was showing for quality.

F. I think that those Aarunga Duke mares are prob-

T. Who were your mentors in the early days?

F. Oh I think the man I bought the horse off of really knew good clydesdales - that was Dave Higgins from Havelock, but I didn't sort of believe him and thought that Croydon was too light and I was always looking for other horses - and then I gradually got to Christchurch and they told me that 30 years ago we never had better quality than that. That was the filly. Daniel O'Connell had that same quality.

I got Donnybrook Castle Island but then I sold him and what happened then is Charlie McCallum started bringing back horses by Castle Island. He had just as good mares and a better stallion and he was just breeding better than I was. I went through a fairly lean period in the 60's. Croydon had died and I wasn't able to keep bringing Croydon yearlings down.

Charlie McCallum, a lot of them used to say that he hadn't been the best breeder earlier but he was always trying to study and improve the breed and that is why he bought the two stallions off me. He'd figured out that's where the quality was and he really had a wonderful stud right up until the time he died with Castle Island fillies and colts and one of them went to Sydney in his final sale and from that by Telstar they bred a mare that won about three Melbourne champions. That Castle Island had a fair bit to do with that, but I would say that because I bred him but he had that dominance, and if you wanted to go back into the mare that he was out of she went back to a Scottish horse called Craigie Beau Ideal. Old Kilpatrick (Scottish breeder) reckons Craigie Beau Ideal was about the best stallion that he ever bred and he probably was showwise when he was going right.

T. Most amusing clydesdale memory?

F. Back in the late 70's a young lady rode Sandy Erskine through the crowded bar at the older Christchurch Show Grounds - in one door, along the bar but forgot to pull her head down as she was coming out and she was brushed off the horse's back. That was a real blow to the dignity of the Christchurch show people at the time. On the same day actually just as the ring was emptying after the parade the same young lady got on Sandy Erskine and galloped a circuit of the ring.

T. Any hallmark events?

F. When we hitched up a 16 horse team. (See black and white picture on page 15)

T. Thankyou Fergus, I'm sure our Tribune readers will find this very interesting reading.



Two of Fergus's mares pictured in mid winter.

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