

DOWN UNDER PERFORMANCE NEWS

With the tragic bush fires in Southern Australia, the devastating cyclones in the north of Queensland and the interminable drought that covers almost all of the lower half of the country, some Connemara owners and breeders do have a reason to smile, even if only briefly.

Sue Clarke, Glenormiston stud, Queensland would have a broad grin at the moment. Castle Baron (Abbeyleix Owen – Castle Dame) whilst involved with his stud duties has had time to go showing and recently brought home the champion and supreme champion ribbons. His son, Glenormiston Tipper O'Toole (owned by Sue Clarke and ridden by Lyndie Easton) gave Baron a shake and was awarded the reserve champion ribbon. Later in the day he took out the champion ridden ribbon; reserve champion ridden stallion of the show, and then to show his family class he was awarded the champion dressage horse of the show.



Glenormiston Tipper O'Toole

In all Tipper O'Toole has had three wins and twelve placings in official dressage competitions during 2008, including a 4th place at the 2008 Queensland state dressage championships. Tipper was also undefeated in agricultural shows in Connemara saddle classes and only beaten once in hand and then by his sire Castle Baron. In 2009 Tipper has continued demonstrating the excellent qualities of the Connemara pony by taking out the reserve champion Connemara stallion class, champion ridden Connemara pony and champion dressage pony against all breeds at the Queensland APSB show.

Castle Baron, still a young stallion, is certainly proving through his own efforts and those of his progeny, that the well known "Village" ponies are a force to be reckoned with regardless of their location.

Other ponies from Glenormiston Stud stallions or Glenormiston bred ponies are also noticeable in the performance fields. Capparis High Roller (Domo Cavallo Praize – Glengarry Patsy Malone – Abbeyleix Finnbar) has an excellent dressage record. 2007 official dressage pony of the year, 2008 state pony club elementary champion and 2008 reserve champion official elementary pony of the year.

Noweddie Nicholas (Glenormiston O'Neill Clanaboy – Rainey Island Joy) was awarded the 2008 national pony preliminary dressage championship ribbon and the 2008 national pony novice dressage reserve championship ribbon.



Capparid High Roller

Riverdell Park Capella (Glenormiston Slipper – Colmaur Colleen) has excelled being awarded the 2008 PC zone showjumping and equitation championships – 1st in both 17 -26 yrs equitation rounds, champion 17 -26 yrs equitation, 1st in all three classes of pony and galloway showjumping, champion pony and galloway showjumping. Capella was also awarded 4 state pony club medals from 4 appearances in showjumping and combined training.

The mare Glenormiston Aedin (Abbeyleix Finbar – Glenormiston Abbey Lara) owned and ridden by Lyndie Easton competed in 2008 in official dressage competition for 2 wins and 11 placings including a 7th at the 2008 Queensland state dressage championships.

Domo Cavallo Praize, mentioned above as the sire of Capparid High Roller, was an excellent show jumper and eventing pony and competed in the open fields in both disciplines. He was rarely beaten in eventing despite standing just 14.2hh. His versatility was shown as he was also a champion and reserve champion harness pony. Praize has a pure bred gelding son Glenormiston Patrick (dam - Washlands Rebecca) who was also a successful A& B Grade show jumper. Patrick eventually went to a younger rider who took him through pony club, inter school competition etc. At 19 yrs, Patrick can still be found competing in these events.

Abbeyleix Finbar, another of the Glenormiston stallions, was a fabulous jumper and competed in eventing and showjumping. Oxenholm Gideon, the third leg of the Glenormiston fabulous performance stallion trio competed successfully in all jumping disciplines and excelled in speed events. Praize, Finbar and Gideon have now all gone to greener pastures but their combined performance qualities as can be found in the Glenormiston mare contingent will be seen for many generations yet to come. Add to this, the now emerging performance qualities of Castle Baron and the Village line, Glenormiston ponies have a very bright future.