

CONNEMARA PONY NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER **WINTER EDITION 2010**

Connemara Pony Showcase for 2010 has been and gone, and what a spectacular event it was. Typical winter in Melbourne was the order of the day for Saturday but the good lord smiled on Sunday's event and bright sunshine reflected in the day's events. It was fortunate that the full event was held in the magnificent indoor arenas of the Werribee Equestrian centre some 40 kms south of Melbourne.

Saturday was "Show and Tell" day with Judges Karen Spicer, Luke Dodds, Sue Tufnell and M. Kelly and Oliver Evans officiating. Sharon and Luke gave young, new and experienced owners and handlers some excellent experience on the showing of Native Ponies and the Connemara in particular. This school was very well received. The working Hunter demonstration had Sue Tufnell giving of her life time, hand on experience with all ponies being given every opportunity to learn and improve.

"Monihan Harrison", the best showjumping Connemara in Victoria and probably Australia and his diminutive rider Carissa Baily gave a perfect demonstration of precision showjumping and this was followed by the cute 13.2hh Part bred Connemara "Smack the Pony" and his rider Katy Ryman who gave a delightful demonstration of Free Style Dressage to true Irish music.

Saturday's crowd went away with a much better conception of the Connemara pony! Sunday brought bright sunshine to Werribee. This was action day and Saturday's demonstrations saw a marked improvement in the presentation of all Ponies for the "In Hand" classes.

In hand classes were followed by beginners and open Working Hunter events, beginners and open sections, 6 Bar Jumping and Dressage with beginners and open classes.

Those collecting the prize money were "*Ballintapper Galahad*" Supreme Connemara Performance Pony 14.2hh and under. "*Celtic Fairy tale*" Part Bred Supreme Connemara performance Pony. Highest scoring Jumping Male Connemara – "*Monahan Harrison*", Highest scoring Jumping female Connemara, "*Boonhaburra Fantail*"

A number of other Pony Breed owners and presenters were evident and comments passed indicated that "Show case" had created a huge impression with comments that this type of show/presentation event must become a regular event in Australia to improve and show the native pony to their full potential.

'Connemara Show Case" 2012 is already on the drawing boards and sponsorship has already been promised. It appears that "Show Case" has created a great impression of the wonderful Australian Connemara Pony!