

## **AUSTRALIAN CONNEMARA PONY 2010**

Consistent drought conditions through almost all States of Australia in the past few years have resulted in a considerable fall in Equestrian events and horse participation. Spring 2009 and Summer 2010 really hit hard but those Connemara ponies out competing showed their true talents and adaptability with quality results in a number of disciplines throughout Australia.

The Victorian Gelding "*Monahan Harrison*" (Ben Dhui Diccon – Wychwood Lady) has displayed tremendous Jumping ability and won two State Show Jumping Championships and competed successfully in Junior 95cm and Junior 6 Bar competition. He has competed in Pony Club State Dressage with 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in C Grade dressage and placed fourth in Teams competition. 2010 saw him competing in Pony Club Eventing and this discipline was yet another field in which he has excelled.

Another Connemara pony came to light at an 'all breeds country horse sale'. *Ballantrae Turkish Delight* (Toorigal Danny Boy – Ballantrae Treacle) was bought as "breed unknown" and discovered to be a pure bred Connemara. He has gone ahead in leaps and bound with his new owner with wins and champion ribbons at "in hand" classes and wins and placings in Show Jumping. His diversity has also seen him with wins and placings in Dressage at levels 3 – 4 and 5. The real achievement for this "find" pony was being awarded the Barostoc Champion led and ridden Gelding classes in Victoria for 2010.

*Newlands Cascade* (Newlands Gideon – Boonahburra Red Robin) gave an impressive performance at the Melbourne Royal winning the best Led, Supreme Mountain and Moorland and placed in the "All Breeds" championship. Another Victorian Connemara *Boonahburrah Faintail* (Celtic Micael McGee – Boonahburra Red Robin) qualified for the "DESSAGE WITH THE STARS" program at just her 2<sup>nd</sup> Dressage competition.

"*Binnowie Mandolin*" (Glenormiston Fintan – Binnowie Eileen) is yet another Connemara showing true performance traits. Purchased as a 12 yr old with little or no training, in just 12 months, he has competed successfully in Pony Club Dressage, consistently scoring in preliminary and a 5<sup>th</sup> place in State Championships and 1<sup>st</sup> or top 3<sup>rd</sup> placings in level 2 and State Championships. His talents are not limited to Dressage as he has been placed at EFA Junior Pre Introductory One day Eventing and 80 & 90 cm Pony Club Inter School Show jumping.

Other prominent Connemaras performing during 2010 have been "*Glenormiston Finnigan*" (Glenormiston Finbar – Glenormiston Elebration). He has competed very successfully at Pony club, Show Jumping, Hunter Trials, One day eventing and competitive Trail Rides. "*Glenormiston Dunmurry*" (Castle Baron – Glenormiston Rosmara) is waving the connemara flag in Australia in the Dressage field with nine 1<sup>st</sup> placings in numerous Dressage competitions including National Interschool Championships.

The part bred gelding '*Exmoor Truffles*' (Thoroughbred sire Cosine – Exmoor Sugar Gum) has been performing brilliantly in the Eventing field. In late spring 2009, he competed in the Adelaide International Horse trials CCI 2 star event. This was a big,

imposing course for the 15hh "*Truffles*" yet in true Connemara style he competed all phases successfully finishing in mid field. Prior to this event he had won and was placed in numerous Horse trials in Victoria and South Australia.

"CONNEMARA PONY SHOW CASE" a new Connemara pony show event that is developing into one of the major Connemara pony shows in Australia, held its second "Show Case" at the Werribee Equestrian Centre, Victoria in July 2010.

The event had a two day program. Saturday was "Show and tell" with National judges giving new, young and experienced riders and handlers excellent instructions and demonstrations in all facets of in hand, ridden working Hunter, Showjumping and Six Bar work. Many of the top Connemara performance Ponies competed on Sunday – Performance day" with "In Hand", working Hunter, beginners and open Show jumping, Six Bar events and Dressage.

"*Ballintapper Galahad*" was awarded the supreme Connemara Performance Pony award, for ponies under 14.2hh. "*Celtic Fairy tale*" was awarded Supreme Part Bred Connemara Performance pony, with the highest scoring jumping Connemara Pony award going to the most consistent Connemara pony showjumping in Australia "*Monahan Harrison*".

Pony Dressage is a growing event "Down Under" and the Connemara pony is again showing its multiple talents in this field. "*Boonahburra Fantail*" is performing well as is the 13.2hh "*Smak the Pony*" a striking Dun part bred Pony is excelling in Free style, and has taken out numerous Pony Dressage events in 2010.

2009 - 2010 has seen a strong emergence of Performance Connemara ponies in Australia and the oft stated comment "Jump on a Connemara and really go places" is being well and truly being proven.

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