

Pony Profile : Kemill Hill Tinka

A party of note to Connemara lovers in Western Australia took place recently at Helen Colleran's when the mare Kemill Hill Tinka celebrated her 29th birthday with a special cake and group of admirers.

Born of imported parents at the Kemill Hill Stud, Tinka was very much the traditional Connie pony type, bomb proof and very much the family pony with bone and substance. The major part of her first eighteen years was spent as the back bone, school master of the Kemill Hill Riding School. Her near perfect response to voice control made her the ideal beginner pony. She was trained to work on the lunge from spelling, this was achieved by emphasis being placed on the last letter so that STOP resulted in her cue to halt, WALK the K was the cue and TROT the T became the cue. A simple gimmick but it resulted in apprehensive young riders becoming so fascinated by this pony that could spell they forgot their nervousness and relaxed. The first essential in learning to ride.

Such was Tinka's bomb proof temperament and willingness to serve that she also became a star in the Hill Group of Riding for Disabled. In 1981 the Rural & Industries Bank sponsored a competition across the state for the mount most suitable for Riding for Disabled work.

Qualifying competitions were held at major country shows and the final took place at the large Autumn show held in Claremont. Tinka was the state winner of this prestigious event.

With the sale of the riding school Tinka was passed on to Helen Colleran to use as a dam in her breeding program with her stallion Leroy Dwayne. This Dwayne - Tinka union was very successful, especially the female progeny many of which went on to be champions. Probably the most notable being Hill View Irish Mist being supreme champion at several Perth Royals, Connemara of the year, and judged many times to be a champion in both saddle and led classes. Others that left their mark in the outside show scene were Hill View Patrice and Hill View Kate, so Tinka, although restricted by the work load she has carried, has been denied the opportunity to shine in the show ring but proved most valuable by leaving her mark in the West Australian pony world and has provided a lot of pleasure to many.

Allan Longman

