

New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders' Society (Inc.)

NEWSLETTER
September to December 2017



New Zealand Shetland Pony Breeders' Society (Inc.)

530 Marshland Road
Christchurch 8083

(All correspondence should be directed to this address)

Phone: (03) 385 6163

Email: lewises@xtra.co.nz

Website: www.shetlandpony.org.nz

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND OFFICE BEARERS 2017 / 2018

	Name	Address	Phone	Email and Fax
PRESIDENT (and Shetland Express, Junior Handler Awards Co Ordinator, Merchandise Co Ordinator)	Fiona Burrows	1821 North Eyre Road, RD5 Rangiora 7475	(03) 312 5982	eudunda.ram@xtra.co.nz
VICE-PRESIDENT (and Publicity Co Ordinator)	Bernadette Woffenden	"Mill Farm" 186 High Street Leeston 7632	(03) 324 3271	laelstud@xtra.co.nz
SECRETARY (and Steeplechase)	Lesley Lewis	530 Marshland Road Christchurch 8083	(03) 385 6163	lewises@xtra.co.nz
TREASURER	Fiona McLachlan	165 Howsons Road, RD5 Rangiora 7475	(03) 312 5998	simon-fiona.mclachlan@xtra.co.nz
REGISTRAR (and Stud Book Liaison, Show Results Co Ordinator)	Catherine Crosado	1173 Telegraph Road, Charing Cross, RD1 Christchurch 7671	Home: (03) 317 8018 Mobile: 0274 337 840	duncree@xtra.co.nz

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS
(and their responsibilities)**

Website Co Ordinator	Karen Findlay	027 412 2383	info@weedramfarm.co.nz
Facebook Co Ordinator	Catherine Crosado	(03) 317 8018	duncree@xtra.co.nz
Newsletter Editor	Monique James	021 405 137	moniquejames@outlook.co.nz
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Member Liaison	Karen Findlay	(03) 310 6270	info@weedramfarm.co.nz
RAS Liaison	Diana Humphries	(03) 329 7871	cotswold.stud@xtra.co.nz
Animal Welfare Act Liaison	Lorraine Martini	(03) 324 3292	lorraine.martini@xtra.co.nz

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

These members are the local points of contact in your area

NORTH ISLAND

Lower North Island (and Area Show Results Collator)	Ann Abernethy	Taihape	(06) 388 9220
Waikato / Upper North Island (and Area Show Results Collator)	Kathy Drake	Auckland	(09) 238 5576

SOUTH ISLAND

South Canterbury / North Otago (and Area Show Results Collator)	Andrea Price Shona Cusack	Timaru Oamaru	(03) 688 9120 (03) 434 6389
Lower South Island (and Area Show Results Collator)	Geraldine Edgar	Southland	(03) 201 6242
Canterbury / Upper South Island (and Area Show Results Collator)	Bernadette Woffenden	Canterbury	(03) 324 3271

- New registrations and transfers can be sent directly to the Registrar
- Newsletter articles, photos, items of interest, classifieds, queries or corrections can be sent to the Newsletter Editor
- Show results can be sent directly to the Registrar
- Financials can be sent directly to the Treasurer
- Website and Facebook items can be sent directly to the appointed Co Ordinator

FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Happy New Year! Trust everyone had a relaxing Christmas and all the best for 2018.

The recent rain has been a welcome relief for many, however I trust those in the Northern parts of the North Island are safe and well.

It continues to be a busy time with showing throughout the country. Please remember to take photos to forward to Monique for the Newsletter and to Karen for the Website. Please also forward photos of this seasons foals. It is great to see new progeny up on the website and promotion of our wonderful breed.

It is great to see our wonderful breed of ponies out and about having fun and the comradeship within our Members.

We look forward to heading down South to Milton in May for our AGM and Stud Tour. Car-pooling may be an option for those who require transport. Any queries please contact myself on (03) 312 5982 or email: eudunda.ram@xtra.co.nz

Best wishes to all. Take care.

Warmest Regards
Fiona Burrows

FROM THE COMMITTEE...

Update To NZSPBS Regulations

The regulations surrounding registered names has been recently reviewed by the committee. The updated regulations can be found through the following link <http://www.shetlandpony.org.nz/NZSPBS%20Regulations%202017.pdf> and are outlined below.

Please be mindful when selecting your ponies registered names, choose an original name that can be easily understood, for example consider how the name will be pronounced over the loudspeaker at an A&P show. There are many methods of finding names, use the Google on the Internet or if you come across a name you like, say in a book or something, then jot it down for later use.

REGISTERED NAMES

- 20) Pony names, including the Stud Prefix, must have no more than 36 characters including spaces.
- 21) Registration of a pony under a particular name may be refused if:
 - a) The name is so like the name of another registered pony as to be likely to mislead.
 - b) The name is identical or similar in pronunciation to another registered pony.
 - c) The name incorporates another breeder's registered Stud Prefix whether in New Zealand or elsewhere.
 - d) As of 28th May 2011 no exact duplication of full name following the Stud Prefix shall be accepted.
- 22) Names of established families (whether in New Zealand or elsewhere) or of celebrated ponies (whether in New Zealand or elsewhere) may only be applied to a pony having some ancestral claim thereto and shall not be used if such use is in the opinion of the Committee likely to be misleading.
- 23) The Committee may refuse to allow any name which in its absolute discretion it considers it to be misleading, misapplied, offensive or contrary to the interests of the members of the Society generally.
- 24) The name of a pony shall not be changed if it has been published in the Stud Book unless the Committee subsequently finds that the error was made by the Society in the printing of the name and upon any change being made in accordance with the Regulations a proper record shall be made by the Registrar in the Stud Book and elsewhere and as may be required in order to avoid confusion.

A&P Show Reminder

Reminder that only purebred Shetland Ponies that are Registered or Colt Foal Recorded, or in the case of foals, have a "Foal Name Pre-approval Certificate" are eligible to be shown at A&P shows. If you have any queries regarding registration please refer them to the Registrar, Catherine Crosado email: duncree@xtra.co.nz or phone: (03) 317 8018.

New Members

None

Bereavements

We regret to advise that
Maureen Thomson of Bow Bells Stud, Herbert, Otago
passed away earlier in 2017

Our sympathy and thoughts
go to the Thomson family at this very sad time



We regret to advise that
Guy Vincent (pictured with wife Barbara) of Foxton
passed away on 1st November 2017.

Our sympathy and thoughts
go to the Barbara and family at this very sad time



PLEASE DIRECT ALL WEBSITE QUERIES OR SUBMISSIONS TO:

Email: info@weedramfarm.co.nz • Tel: 03 310 6270
Post: Karen Findlay, 492 Oxford Road, RD 1, Rangiora 7471
(emailed photographs to be high resolution & saved as a jpeg attachment)
(posted photographs to be high quality & include self-addressed envelope for return)

FROM THE REGISTRAR.....

Transfers – 14th August to 4th December 2017

Reg. Number	Pony	Vendor	Transferred To
944NZ	Stoney Croft Leonardo	J & P Hodges, Fernside	E Clarke-Jordan, Waikuku
993NZ	Birchlands Highland Dancer	M Cromie, Waimate	H & B Prescott-Ballagh, Waimate
1011NZ	Duncree Brisco County Jr	CA Crosado, Christchurch	K Keen, Winchester
799NZ	Birchlands Butterscotch	M Cromie, Waimate	C MacBeth, Nelson

New Registrations – 5th April to 4th December 2017

Registration Number	Sex	Pony
1052NZ	Colt	Murrayfield Harley

FR = Foal Recording for Colts until they are fully registered as a Stallion or a Gelding

Stallions Registered

988NZ Shelyron Black Obsidian

New Studs

None

IMPORTANT NOTICES!!

2018 AGM – MILTON, SOUTHLAND



Saturday May 26th May 2018

- 9:00 - 10:00am Richard Price's Beechgrove Stud at East Taieri, Morning Tea
10:15 - 11:15am White Robe Thoroughbred Stud, Outram
11:45 - 12:45pm Finch's Museum at West Road, Milton
1:00 - 1:45pm 'Kelly's Kitchen' for lunch, Main Street, Milton
2:00pm AGM at 'White Horse Inn' – Conference Room, followed by Afternoon Tea at 3:30pm
Prize Giving, Photo Competition and Raffle
7:00pm Evening Meal at 'White Horse Inn' - Dining Room

Sunday May 27th May 2018

- 9:00 - 10 am Vat-t-Can. Morning Tea, Glassware and Painting Gallery, Milburn State Highway 1, 5 minutes north of Milton
10:15 am 'Murrayfield Stud' Visit and Lunch – Clarendon, State Highway 1, 10 minutes north of Milton

Accommodation is available at:

- St John Motel - Main Street, Milton
- Black Swan Motel in Waihola (12 Minutes north of Milton)

If anyone requires transport from Dunedin Airport please phone Sally Baird cell 027 671 0074 or home in evenings (03) 974 8269 until April, and (03) 974 8241 after April.

The itinerary may be subject to change

FROM THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR.....

Thank you to all of those members that have submitted items of interest and photos for this newsletter. If anyone has any items to sell, articles or items of interest, or photos of ponies that they would be happy to share and submit for publication in the newsletter I would love to hear from you, please email me at moniquejames@outlook.co.nz

The next newsletter publication will be out around April 2018. Items to go into the next newsletter must be emailed through to me by the end of March 2018, earlier is preferable.

Monique James – Newsletter Editor



SI Shetland Ridden Show – Judge Jacqueline Doolan-Tindall dressed as a Christmas Elf with riders Mollie Hedgman riding Llewellyn Spellbound aka Ella (left) and Yasmine Regos riding Llewellyn Merlin (right)

SHETLAND STEEPLECHASE REPORT – DECEMBER 2017

Well, the 2017 Shetland Steeplechase is now behind us, but with so many wonderful and lasting memories. This is a very special experience for our young riders and they will remember these days fondly. We made the front page of the Christchurch Press (for the 2nd time in our 19-year history) and a photo also appeared in the Christchurch Mail.



L-R: Melina, Muffin (in the background) Burbury, Foxy, Blue, Merlin, Ella. Basil was hidden at the back ☹️

Mary, from Chestnut Media, took some brilliant photos of the Steeplechase, and you can view these if you click on the link below. There is also race footage from a go-pro camera which was mounted on Merlin's rider's head. https://www.facebook.com/chestnutmedia/?ref=br_rs .

For those of you who missed the race, it started as predicted with Blue and Foxy setting the pace. Blue was drenched in sweat well before the race began, and Foxy was sweating up nicely with brown streaks running down his white body (this was a great look - thanks Fox!). Muffin was cruising just behind the leaders, followed by 'cool as' Burbury bidding his time behind them with Merlin (who just mucked around at training) wearing the go-pro, close on their heels.

Then the unimaginable happened. Just before one lap was up, Blue, who was in the lead, swerved off a jump at full tilt and into the middle of the arena losing valuable ground and had to circle to get back on track. He tagged on at the rear and made up ground before doing the same thing on the 2nd lap. Goodness knows what happened there, but he was out of the money from that moment on (sorry sponsors ☹️ but I know you still love him). The race continued without any more mishaps but the crowd did love Blue's antics and they also enjoyed seeing the tail ends cut across the arena to tag on the back of the main bunch. The crowd cheered and roared throughout the whole race and it was almost impossible to hear the commentary. What a massive attraction this race is, to young and old, and horsey and non-horsey people alike.

So, it was Muffin's day and she beat Foxy by ¾ length. Foxy, the bridesmaid yet again. Come on Foxy – your sponsor has been with us for over 9 years now and deserves some return for their money! Burbury was ½ a length away in 3rd, with 3 lengths to Merlin. They were followed by Melina, Ella, Basil with Blue (who covered more ground than any of them, to no avail) bringing up the rear. Muffin's owners (and sponsors and members – Karen and Terry Wilson) could not be present, but did have a family representative watching, and from all accounts, and judging by the texts they sent me, you would have thought they had just won the New Zealand Trotting Cup.



Chilling out before the race (with our Marshall); and the black ponies enjoying a graze after the big race



*Above: Our lovely riders resplendent in their jockey silks.
Below: In the Birdcage prior to the race start*



*Above: Heading into the Main Oval, led by Blue
Below: Merlin with his rider wearing the Go-Pro – see the Chestnut Media website (link above) for the recording of the race*



The Start
 ←
 Last jump and the Finish Line in sight.
 →
 Burbury, Muffin, & Foxy





Muffin and rider Mollie Hedgman displaying their winning style



↑ Burbury in fine style. ↓ Melina in her first Steeplechase



↑ Lucy on Foxy in a state of disbelief as she watches her sister on Blue disappear into the middle of the ring ↓



Basil in full flight





**Melina and Merlin exhausted the day after the Steeplechase..... And, a few hours later – pony rides?
You have to be kidding – what part of ‘tired’ don’t you get mother? ☹ ☺**

Two weeks after the Steeplechase, the ponies competed in the South Island Shetland Ridden Show on what was one of the hottest days of the year. The show was small but elite☺, lots of fun, and was a hugely successful day, so we are hoping for more entries next year. Riders competed in showing and hunter classes, Fancy Dress and gymkhana events.



Showing line-up – children sweltering in 32-degree heat. Fancy Dress: Cotswold Burbury the Punk; Llewellyn Spellbound & Llewellyn Merlin

A few days later Muffin returned home to Ohoka to brag to her paddock mates about winning the big race, Burbury headed back to the hills of Motukarara where he will be ridden by a very lucky neighbour, and Foxy and Basil will be on loan again to the Sefton Riding Centre where they will be used to teach young ones to ride. Blue, Merlin, Melina and Ella will stay at home and be used for low key lessons and pony rides until training starts again next year. Riders and parents will return to a normal, less hectic life also, and so will I.....

Many thanks again to our wonderful Steeplechase sponsors without whom, this special event would not be possible. A huge, huge thank you also to our riders, parents, pony owners, helpers and supporters. We hope everyone enjoyed being part of the 19th Shetland Grand National Steeplechase at the Canterbury A. & P. Show.

To summarize

PLACING	PONY	RIDER	SPONSOR	OWNER
1st	Beechgrove Muffin Magic	Mollie Hedgman	Mazline Partsworld	Karen & Terry Wilson
2nd	Cotswold Foxfire	Lucy Baker	Apparel & Merchandising Solutions	Lesley Lewis & Diana Humphries
3rd	Cotswold Burbury Twill	Ella O'Connor	Agrisea New Zealand	Diana & John Humphries
4th	Llewellyn Merlin	Yasmine Regos	R. J. Civil	Lesley & Paul Lewis
5th	Llewellyn Melina	Charley Regos	Beck and Caul	Lesley & Paul Lewis
6th	Llewellyn Spellbound (Ella)	Sam Moffatt	Simon McLachlan Fencing	Lesley & Paul Lewis
7th	Beechgrove Basil Brush	Maggie McDermott	Grigg Family	Lesley & Paul Lewis
8th	Llewellyn Moody Blue	Chloe Baker	PGG Wrightson Rangiora	Lesley & Paul Lewis

Best wishes for Christmas and 2018

From Lesley and the Steeplechase team



AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS – GERALDINE EDGAR, LOWER SOUTH ISLAND

I'm writing to all Shetland pony owners in the south to tell them about the Annual General Meeting being held in Milton, Otago in May. We're looking forward to having this event in the south.

Five intrepid Shetland harness drivers Andrea Price, Jean Reid, Karen Wilson, Marianne Smith and I and one mini driver Val Shanks with the famous Spot spent four glorious and fun days on the Otago Central Rail Trail recently. Based at Lauder and Ranfurly we did daily drives with our ponies of up to 22 km. A truly wonderful trip in glorious weather. To be highly recommended. There is talk about doing the Rail Trail from one end to the other next spring.

My ponies are getting ridden twice a week from local kids and we're about to have a Christmas Pony Party which I hold each year. About 25 kids have lots of fun. Some kids who now have their own ponies bring them back and there is much enjoyment as they swap ponies and play games and do obstacle competitions.

Merry Christmas
Geraldine Edgar



Nyah Roy on Cotswold Priscilla, Carlie Drysdale on Rose-Eyre Sophie, Grace Dolton on Cotswold Tammish and Isla Hailes on Beechgrove Royal Rose at Balfour

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – BERNADETTE WOFFENDEN, CANTERBURY / UPPER SOUTH ISLAND

There have been some quality foals born this season, which will no doubt make their show debuts next year.

Although Canterbury is drying off now there is abundant feed available and lots of hay has been made.

All the shows have had good entries and judges have remarked on the very high quality of ponies presented and excellent standard of turnout.

The South Island Ridden Show was a great success with ponies and riders all having a wonderful day. Jacqueline Doolan-Tindall was judging and dressed up as an elf to match the Christmas theme of the show, this was a great hit and very much appreciated by the riders and spectators alike.

Currently we are gearing up for running our South Island In-Hand Breed and Harness Show, which is being held at Ellesmere Showground's for the first time. Excitingly we have two Australian judges lined up for the in-hand sections and a very experienced harness judge for our harness section so it should be an excellent event showcasing our wonderful breed.

We haven't got any foals on this ground this year at our place but we have made up for it with puppies. Our Miniature Schnauzer, Tilly, had eight puppies yesterday, 22nd December. We are going to name them after Santa's reindeer!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Bernadette Woffenden, Lael Shetland Pony Stud

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – ANDREA PRICE / SHONA CUSACK, SOUTH CANTERBURY / NORTH OTAGO AREA

Hello Everybody

I hope a happy Christmas and New Year was had by all.

Apart from going to work, life has been pretty quiet for me. I hurt my back in July and it curtailed pony stuff in a BIG way. No walks, no driving, no grooming. Cotswold Asterix and Cotswold Wizard have had a very lazy winter mooching in the paddock! Asterix was not clipped, so when our first show time arrived I decided to show him again. He scrubbed up pretty well! It did take me three times longer to do anything but we got there. He was not impressed with having to have a cold bath, as I forgot to put new batteries in the wee califont I use. Oops. I have taken him out three times so far. Next up is the SI Shetland Show.

Our weather has been as strange as everywhere else. Wet that took forever to dry out, grass for miles over spring and then a spell of very hot dry weather. Now we have had some welcome rain. It's all a bit of a lottery at times. 🌧️

I hope you are all enjoying your Shetlands whatever you are doing.

Regards
Shona Cusack
Oamaru



Cotswold Asterix having his morning sit-down

AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – KATHY DRAKE, WAIKATO UPPER NORTH ISLAND

As we head into summer, if the last week or two is any indication, it is looking like a very hot dry one is in store for us.

The local Shetlands have been out doing some PR work again. We had a great turnout of 10 ponies this year for the Auckland Highland Games in November. Our own three Shetlands and Ann and Tiffany Storms two were this time joined by Jeffrey Jones' two and three of Rachel Grant's Shetland ponies. A great representation of New Zealand Shetland studs with four North Island studs—Barnsley, Gleneagles, Northclose and Whitinui represented and four South Island studs—Birchlands, Burravoe, Cotswold and Narrandera. We were also joined by another Shetland owner, Annette Green, who wasn't able to bring her wee Lael Valor with her, but did help Jeffrey with his two ponies.

We were at Ellerslie Racecourse this year, and the Shetlands, Clydesdales and Highland Cows were allocated the parade ring which was ideal, as we were able to tie the ponies to the outside of the rails, which gave a buffer between them and the public, but perfect for people to talk to them through the open rails. And plenty of lovely big trees over us for shade. Once again we set up our photo boards and publicity blurbs on each of the ponies and had pamphlets on hand for anyone interested in the breed. A steady stream of people kept the ponies and us entertained throughout the day. We dressed all 10 ponies in wee tartan rugs and paraded them through the main exhibitor and competition area at midday. The ladies from Waikato Heavy Horses were a bit worried about how their two big Clydie's would handle the atmosphere, as they were a bit spooked by the highland pipe bands, so they tucked in behind the Shetlands and after a bit of quiet standing around out the back, they happily followed us through the throngs of people and bands. Of course the Shetlands just took it all in their stride.

A fortnight later, Rod and I took our three Shetlands to Christmas in Karaka at the beautiful Karaka Bloodstock Centre. This was a big market day set up to raise funds for a local country school. Once again we had our own little allocated area with post and rails separating us from the public and huge trees for much needed shade. The ponies could put their heads through the rails and talk to their visitors, but it meant we weren't having to continually keep children from running behind them.

The local Kidz Karts group had six wee ponies in sulky's giving cart rides at one end of our area and we were set up for people to come through and take photos of their kids (and sometimes Big Kids) with the pony of their choice in return for a gold coin donation. Bonny (Gleneagles Ebony) was dressed as Mother Christmas, Creamie (Gleneagles Crème de la Crème) as Santa's Elf and Sateen (Narrandera Sateen) as The Christmas Tree Fairy. The wee pink Fairy was by far the most popular for photo's—and not just with the wee girls. The braver kids also got to take their pony for a wee walk—more than one adult told me that this had really made their child's day. Rod and I got to talk to some interesting people, and we were able to point out the attributes of the Shetland breed. We made over \$100 for the school, and lots of new Shetland pony fans. It was a long day for the ponies, but they were wonderful as usual. I am sure they enjoy getting out and about and meeting people. They are always keen to hop on the float at the start of the day.

Two more Shetlands have stepped into the Northern show-ring so far this season. Lisa Thurgood took Chelsea Fuller's wee stallion, Whitinui Leo's Legacy (who she has on lease) to Waikato A&P and Rachel Grant took Barnsley Our Annie to Clevedon A&P. Hopefully they both enjoyed themselves enough to want to continue showing.

Thanks to social media, I have enjoyed following the Giddy Up Girl's and their ticking off of the next leg of the Rail Trail, and the Canterbury Shetland Steeplechase team's annual run at the Christchurch A&P show. More examples of the versatility of our breed. By the time this newsletter is out, Christmas will have come and gone. All the best for 2018 and I hope the weather isn't too harsh this summer and everyone's ponies are thriving.

Kathy Drake

Highland Games Photos



Karaka Christmas Photos



AREA REPRESENTATIVE REPORT – ANN ABERNETHY LOWER NORTH ISLAND AREA

Life has continued to throw “nasties” at me as again I had the horse truck loaded ready for weekend away when I fell ill and was rushed off to hospital with double pneumonia so again I am having enforced rest and the ponies are enjoying a rest too, growing fat and full of hijinks. Two months later I still haven't got a clearance so I made the decision of no shows or competitions this summer. But there is always some good news to share and I must thank Deanna and Richard Holst for getting the North Island Trophy engraved and delivered to me. I did appreciate their effort.

I have sold Cotswold Mystical Eve to a wonderful home in the Hawkes Bay where she is being a pet and enjoying outings to the river and beaches. What a lucky pony and I do hope she and Emma have lots of fun together. Misty went to the Hawkes Bay Show (Emma's first) and Emma was very excited to go home with ribbons.

Huntingdon Bliss had a beautiful black filly foal on the 17th October a big, strong classic Shetland. I am very pleased with her but will wait for an “expert” opinion at branding time!

I have just bought a nice little carriage so I have motivation to get going again!! However I do struggle to find somewhere to drive and to get enough mileage to get the ponies fit for competition. I enjoyed reading Karen Wilson's report on driving Beechgrove Cappuccino (Harness Pony of the Year) and congratulate Karen on the award. Karen, you mentioned driving boots and I was wondering if you, or other carriage drivers, could give me some information on them as some of our roads are metaled. I love the sound of your excursions – what fun!

2017 is nearly over so all that is left to say is Merry Christmas to you all and best wishes for the New Year ahead.

Ann Abernethy



The pretty head of Barnsley Mr MacArthur (yearling, Dam Cotswold Mystical Eve)



Miss Maggie (yearling, Dam Gleneagles Blossom, a full sister to Barnsley Evening Special)



Huntingdon Bliss's girl, a few weeks old

“VALE”

Fenwick Aniseed (Imp Aust.) 1998 – 2017
Sire: Fenwick Satona Dam: Fenwick Antoinette.

It was with great sadness that the time had come for us to say good bye to a true legend. Aniseed had been part of our lives for a long time; we imported him from Fenwick stud in Victoria, Australia as a two year old. I will never forget the first time we viewed him at the stud; he was such a stunning pony, a true working type Shetland, just what I was looking for. I could not take my eyes off him that day, his coat was a gleaming ink black with a profuse mane & tail, he certainly stood out from all the others in the paddock, very mature for a two year old, with that look at me attitude as he rounded up all the other horses and ponies in his paddock.

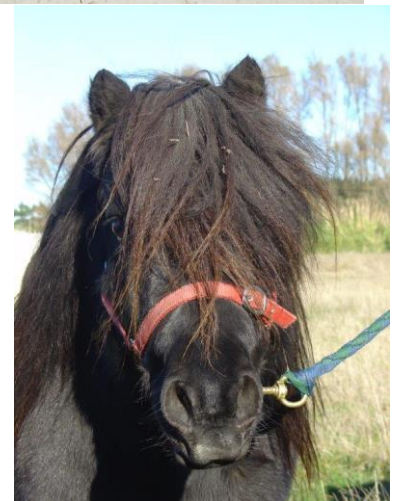
Over the years John and I always felt very proud to show Aniseed he was a true gentleman in the show-ring, such a pleasure to show, and would stand up like a cardboard cut-out, and only move when asked. His beautiful true black coat would be gleaming and was much admired. We were often asked if we had dyed this pony. I always had much pleasure in answering, he is wash 'n' wear, and in his true colour. Aniseed was very successful winning many supreme Championships and gold medals over his show career, also awarded the NZ Shetland Pony Breeders Society, “Sire of the Year” for six consecutive years.

In Aniseed's younger days he was trained to harness, not for competition but for our own pleasure, he adapted well to harness work, and was often sort after with his four wheeler gig for weddings and church functions over the years. Aniseed also attended the funeral of one of our Shetland member's as the guard of honour pony; this was a great honour to have been asked. That day this beautiful pony stood quiet and proudly, as if he knew what he was there for.

Aniseed has certainly left us, and future Shetland breeders a legacy with his progeny over the years, many just like Aniseed have excelled in the show ring and made their mark as being true working ponies. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to own and breed with such a beautiful stallion over the years.

Aniseed was much admired by all who met him, he is a “true legend” and his lovely old bloodlines will live on for a long time.

Rest in Peace Aniseed.
Diana Humphries



NORTHERN REGION SHETLAND ENTHUSIASTS SUE JACKSON MEMORIAL SHOW
Photos courtesy of Thornton Photography and Linda Hinz



Champion Adult and Supreme Champion of Show – Cotswold Aurora and Shannon Thornton. Supreme Garland sponsored by Tullamore Sheep Shearing, Supreme Rug sponsored by Gleneagles Shetland Pony Stud/Stephanie Jackson-Young



Otway View Noah Imp Aust. and Richard Holst



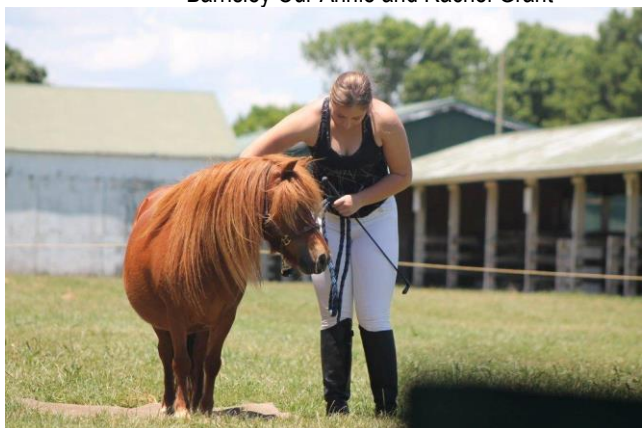
Gleneagles Prince and Shannon Thornton



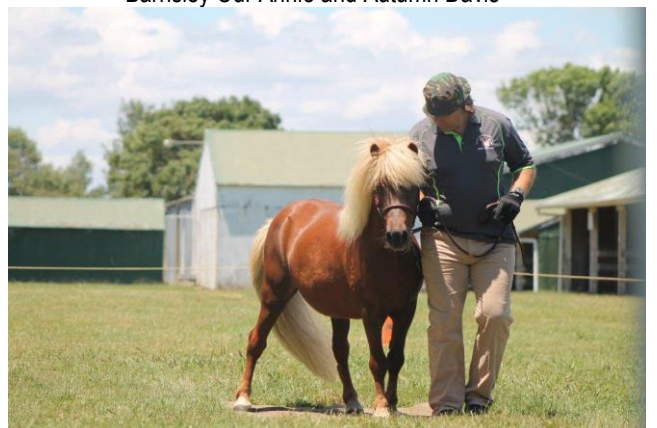
Barnsley Our Annie and Rachel Grant



Barnsley Our Annie and Autumn Davis



Tullamore Evie's Sunset and Shannon Thornton



Gleneagles Prince and Richard Holst



Gleneagles Phoebe being jumped by Lucy Burrill



Gleneagles Pumpkin being jumped by Shannon Thornton



Gleneagles Prince showing a clean pair of heels during the in-hand jumping



Richard Holst of Tullamore Shetland Pony Stud doing Brave the Shave courtesy of Stephanie Jackson-Young, raising money for the Cancer Society

SOUTH ISLAND SHOW PHOTOS

Photos courtesy of Shona Cusack, Sarah Harden, Bernadette Woffenden, Lesley Lewis and Catherine Crosado



Southern Canterbury Equestrian A&P Show
Champion – Cotswold Asterix



Southern Canterbury Equestrian A&P Show – Burravoe Phlicka and Sarah Harden (left) and Burravoe Phineas Phynn and Toby Harden (right)



Northern A&P Show Line Up



Northern A&P Show – Champion Adult and Supreme Champion Murrayfield Hepatica with Lucy Burrows (right) and Reserve Champion Youngstock Burravoe Primadonna Pearl and Fiona Burrows (left)



Northern A&P Show Champion Adult – Oaklea Halliwell and Bernadette Woffenden



Northern A&P Show – Burravoe Phlicka and Sarah Harden



Amberley A&P Show Reserve Champion Youngstock – Burravoe Phineas Phynn and Toby Harden



Canterbury A&P Show Supreme Champion – Cotswold Melina shown by Lesley Lewis and surrounded by her Steeplechase rider fan club



Courtenay A&P Show – Catherine Crosado's Mum, Irene (85 years young) with Duncree Hickory. Irene helped Catherine get Hakim ready. He just stood while she potted around brushing him



SI Premier Show – Champion Duncree Hickory Hank and Vicki Havord (left) and Reserve Champion Duncree Hickory Hakim and Catherine Crosado (right)

2017 FOALS

Photos supplied by Lorraine Martini, Fiona McLachlan, Lucy Burrows, Catherine Crosado and Diana Humphries

Note: If anyone else has foal photos they would like to go into the next newsletter please email them to me monique.james@outlook.co.nz



Oaklea Joyita (pending)
Black Filly born 14/11/2017
Sire: Duncree Eclipse (486NZ)
Dam: Llewellyn Molly (555NZ)



Oaklea Jubilant (pending)
Palomino Colt born 26/11/2017
Sire: Lael St. Nicholas (884NZ)
Dam: Narrandera Vanora (510NZ)



Oaklea Jaxxin (pending)
Skewbald Colt born 2/12/2017
Sire: Narrandera Vicount (580NZ)
Dam: Shelyron Blackberry (785NZ)



Oaklea Bellmoral (pending)
 Bay Colt born 16/12/2017
 Sire: Cotswold Dougal McAllister (519NZ)
 Dam: Birchlands Tinkerbelle (410NZ)



Nevaeh Augustus (pending)
 Chestnut Colt born 9/11/2017
 Sire: Shelyron Napoleon (660NZ)
 Dam: Shelyron Aimer (923NZ)



Burravoe Beau Geste (pending)
 Broken Colour Colt born 18/10/2017
 Sire: Cotswold Royal Ensign (378NZ)
 Dam: Noble Heights Breac Moon (689NZ)



Burravoe Dominion (pending)
 Brown Colt born 26/11/2017
 Sire: Burravoe Phlemington (941NZ)
 Dam: Duncree Rosemarie (602NZ)



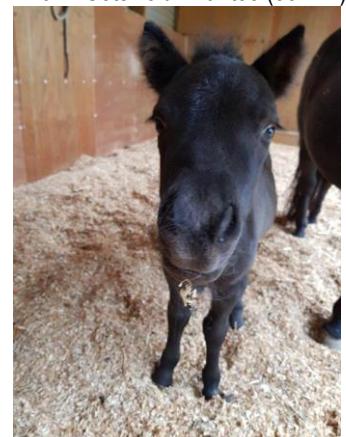
Burravoe Ambrosia (pending)
 Brown Filly born 2/12/2017
 Sire: Burravoe Phlemington (941NZ)
 Dam: Cotswold Avantee (832NZ)



Cotswold Ann's Tapestry (pending)
 Skewbald Filly born 23/9/2017
 Sire: Cotswold Dougal McAllister (519NZ)
 Dam: Cotswold Anastasia (619NZ)



Duncree Hugo (pending)
 Piebald Colt born 30/11/2017
 Sire: Narrandera Vicount (508NZ)
 Dam: Llewellyn Holly (291NZ)



Duncree Brigadoon (pending)
 Black Colt born 19/12/2017
 Dam: Cotswold Bonnie Doon (516NZ)
 Sire: Duncree Eclipse (486NZ)

GIDDY UP PONIES - TACKLE THE RAIL TRAIL AGAIN

Submitted by Karen Wilson, Canterbury

Hello! I'm '**Sophie**' – **Karen's Pony** I've been tasked with the onerous job of jotting down my recollections of the latest escapades of the Giddy Up Ponies.

Mum and I left home bright and early on Saturday 28th October 2017 and competed in the Shetland Harness Section of the Ashburton Show. I knew there was something up as whilst giving me a lovely wash she paid particular attention to scrub behind my ears the day prior to us leaving. The show went well, I got plenty of positive remarks from Mum so she must have been pleased. There was a little bit of excitement after we had shown as '**Malcolm**' – **Aunty Jean's Pony** and I were minding our own business and taking part in the serious job of scoffing the hay from our hay nets when we were very rudely interrupted by a large swarm of bees. They inadvertently decided to make their home behind our floats, on the judge's table inside the ring we had competed in. Mum and Aunty Jean chose to lock themselves in Mum's vehicle very brave of them, but lovely Aunty Vicki came along and shifted us. After all the excitement had died down, we headed down to **Aunty Andrea's** to meet up with '**Belle**' to spend the night to ensure a speedy get away the next day.

Day One

Sunday 29th October we awoke bright and early, Mum and the Aunties had packed all our gear and we loaded last then we travelled in convoy to Aunty Shona's in Oamaru. Belle and I travelled together and Malcolm went solo in Aunty Andrea's float. Sadly our dear friends Asterix and Aunty Shona did not join us this year. Asterix said he was happy for us to leave Aunty Jean's float in his grazing paddock but not for too long as he said he would need to eat the grass underneath the float, no sense in it going to waste and he would need us to be back to shift it before too long.

We arrived in Lauder mid-afternoon and were all pleased to get off our floats. There's only so much eye spy a pony can handle on a long drive like that and Belle and I were pleased to get off and stretch our short legs. At Lauder we were greeted by '**Candy**' – **Aunty Geraldine's pony from Balfour**, **Alesha** – **Aunty Marianne's pony from Oamaru** a newly broken in young mare and last but not least '**Spot**' – **Aunty Val's Miniature Horse from Outram**. YES!! I know what you are thinking! We don't usually mix it up so much with miniatures but in this PC society we live in, in the ideology of acceptance, it is not good to be seen to be prejudiced towards other breeds. Just between you and me, the gang had actually held a secret Skype prior to our departure with regard to this Spotty fellow joining us and decided we would give him a chance to prove himself.

A paddock was prepared for us in the property of the Lauder Hotel which suited us just fine. Mum and the Aunties stayed across the road at the Lauder School B&B.

Day Two

Monday 30th October we again hopped into our floats where we all travelled to Alexandra. It was to be another hot day. We found a good size reserve to handle the 5 vehicles and floats, harnessed up and were off on our drive to the starting point of the Rail Trail in Clyde. We all had either had our farriers shoe us or alternatively wore our own little safety boots to protect us from the changing terrain. I can imagine we would have found it too difficult without some protection for our hooves.

This section of the trail took us through the town of Alexandra. For certain areas we required a key to be able to continue along the track but Belle said her Mum had organised this from the Department of Conservation in Alexandra. There was lots to see and lots going on but we all handled it in our stride. We even had no issue with Master Spot, he decided to start out strong and lead the Shetland entourage. This suited us fine. The journey to Clyde was very flat but lots to see and quite a few large equine friends either side of the trail to cheer us along. We did however strike some men with large machines cutting down trees very close to the trail. Spot, Alesha, Candy and Malcolm got past all good then the men fired up the log splitter and a ginormous chainsaw. Well you can imagine what happened next... Belle and I decided 'No Way Jose' we would retreat to safer ground ideally back at Alexandra in the floats but our Mums said No this wasn't going to happen. The nice men with the brightly coloured coats stopped making that dreadful noise and allowed us to get past them.

Further up we negotiated the Muttontown Gully Viaduct. This was quite a rickety old bridge suspended quite high-ish and it seemed to move a little as we walked over it but we all arrived safely on the other side with no dramas. Not much further up we came across a lovely area of the trail near Young Lane in the Clyde district which was beautifully shaded by a large alleyway of Poplar trees. But that wasn't the best part of it there was grass either side of the trail UP TO OUR EARS. It took no persuading from us that we had certainly chosen the most 'perfect picnic spot'. Mums enjoyed their delicious packed lunches made by Vicki at the Lauder Hotel and of course the gang tried to stuff in as much of the surrounding greenery as was equinely possible in the break we had.

Everyone happy and fulfilled we decided although we were very close to the start of the trail at the rail head in Clyde we would not continue to this point. It travelled very closely to the 100 km road and in the interests of safety we were all happy to return and continue back up the trail to Alexandra. Our travels back to Alexandra were uneventful we were all just happy to go with the flow and play follow the leader. This day we travelled approximately 16 km return so this was a nice start to what was to come.

Day Three

Tuesday 31st October started out very warm. Today we were to negotiate one of the more challenging parts of the trail this was from Lauder to Auripo some 22 km return journey. As we knew this was going to be another hot day a unanimous decision was made to depart early. Spot again took the leading position with Alesha comfortable to follow behind. From here the line-up varied between Candy, Malcolm, Belle and myself.

After a slight climb, Poolburn No 2 Tunnel loomed ahead. A team meeting was held and the decision was made to lead us through in two groups of 3. Some of us unhitched and others chose to lead us through with gigs attached. Spot, Alesha and Candy went in the first group followed by myself, Belle and Malcolm. This was our first experience of going through a tunnel for all of us except Malcolm who had negotiated it on a previous visit. Malcolm had bragging rights and let us know 'there was nothing to fear, but fear itself'. This tunnel is the longest on the trail some 229 metres and unlike the others has a curve which makes it impossible to see to the other side. Inside it's dry but smells damp. The ground is soft and the temperature was cool, a welcome relief from the heat of the Central Otago sun. Our Mums put their lights on their heads to guide them through. Although the tunnel was black inside, as equines we adjust very quickly to the dark and do not require the assistance of any artificial lighting. All through safely and re-harnessed, we continued our journey. We only had to travel 2 km before meeting Poolburn No 1, this tunnel is a shorter distance at 201 metres and unlike No 2 we were able to see to the far side at all times. As we had now all been through the tunnels we negotiated them very well.

Our next obstacle was the Poolburn Viaduct which is the highest bridge on the Rail Trail some 37 metres. We again took turns driving across luckily none of the gang had acrophobia (a fear of heights) as with this bridge it would have most certainly proved to be a problem. Further and further we trotted along until we reached Auripo which had a pleasant area for us to break for lunch.

Before departing we struck a large group of school children on camp and they were heading the same way as us so we harnessed up in lightning speed to get the jump on them. As it takes us a bit longer to negotiate the tunnels we wanted to leave a decent travelling distance between us and the school group. Unfortunately our plans didn't quite pan out as they managed to catch us at Poolburn No 2. Belle, Malcolm and myself drove through the tunnels and waited at the far entrance expecting to see Spot, Alesha and Candy but to our astonishment instead we were greeted by ten thousand over excited school children exiting the tunnel. All good though, we did enjoy the odd pat and words of encouragement from the children as they walked past with their bikes. Back home safely to our enclosure at Lauder we were pleased to rest up after our day.

Day Four

Wednesday 1st November today one of our group departed for home. Alesha the baby of our gang decided she would head back to Oamaru. She had done extremely well as it can be mentally and physically tiring coming across all the different challenges. She told me she enjoyed her time with us and would join us again on another adventure but needed to get home I actually wondered if she may have been getting a little homesick.

The rest of us decided, as we were leaving our abode in Lauder for Ranfurly (to greener pastures hopefully), we would take a shorter sprightly drive to Omakau some 14 km return journey. The gang of 5 set off to Omakau with Spot leading. A cracking pace was set and we in fact arrived there in very good time. A great pozzie was found for us to eat to our hearts content while the Mums again enjoyed their lovely home packed lunches. On our return journey we were steaming, we could all feel it, we raced home at a wonderful free cracking pace. Perhaps it was the excitement of moving onto greener pastures but whoever said Shetlands and 1 Miniature can't fly are sadly mistaken. Our Mums just gave us our heads and let us go, it was sheer delight all round. I couldn't help myself, bursting into song - "I can fly, I can fly" but Belle swiftly reined me in by telling me to refrain from the racket as it was bringing on one of her migraines.

Once back to Lauder we finished packing and left for our new accommodation along the trail – the Ranfurly Motor Camp. They had an area where the Mums were able to set up that deadly nasty electric tape to contain us. Once settled, fed and watered we rested and drifted into the land of nod dreaming of what adventures were ahead of us the next day.

Day Five

Thursday 2nd November another amazingly hot day was predicted. Does the sun ever not come out down here? We couldn't believe how hot and sunny every day had been. Today our planned route was from the Daisybank car park near Kokanga to Hyde. The Mums took us in the floats to a parking area where we unloaded, harnessed up and entered the trail. This trip was 25 km return. The Mums didn't have their beautiful packed lunches today but we overheard them say they were looking forward to having a nice liquid refreshment for lunch at the Hyde Hotel.

There was beautiful scenery along this area so we all enjoyed this drive. Our first obstacle was the Prices Road Viaduct. Did Belle know what was ahead of us? Did she have anything to do with the width of this bridge? We all wondered if one of her family may have played a part in the construction of the said viaduct, or was it only in name-sake? It was spanned 91 metres long and some 32 metres in height. It was a 'Doozey'. Most of our gigs axles were set at approximately 125 cm in width apart from our little friend Spot (who I have to admit had started to grow on us). Belle's viaduct was probably close to 130 cm this was not giving us much room for error if we were to drive across. Some of the team chose to drive but others including myself took the alternative where Mum took my gig off and led me and the gig across separately. I was pleased with her decision although we can drive in a straight line we have been known to deviate from time to time so this was the safer of the two options. Once Mum had me all harnessed back into my gig we were off again only to find less than 1 km ahead we come across the Prices Creek Tunnel – Tiroiti. A mere 151 metres long with a slight curve - no problem for the Mums to see without the assistance of their lights on their heads. Mission accomplished, on we all gallantly trotted until we glimpsed a tiny size image of our lunch/refreshment destination in the distance. Closer and closer we came until we saw the curved narrow bridge into Hyde. After negotiating the bridge our mouths were beginning to water somewhat with the thought of some liquid refreshments and a taste of the delicious greenery the Hyde area had to offer. The Mums got us all settled only to find a large crop of hemlock growing from our selected lunch spot. A quick reshuffle allocation of new eating patches and we settled into the job at hand.

The Mums then took off, quite briskly in fact, to the Hyde Hotel. It ran through our minds this may have been for 1 of 2 reasons Number 1 – A rush for the little ladies room. Or Number 2 – They were in a hurry to get that glass of wine they had all been dreaming of. A short time later the gang happened to look up only to see our Mums sitting on the veranda eating ice blocks. Yes, the Hyde Hotel was now a Dry Argument ☹. Enough said, lunch completed we commenced the return journey back up the home toward the Daisybank car park.

Spot suggested we mix it up a bit and chose to take less of a leading role. He suggested we all have turns leading the gang. So one by one we all had our turn in front, some of us more successfully than others. Quite frankly I was more than happy to stick with Belle in front or behind it didn't really matter. She reminded me of my half-sister Lilly who I left at home. I was more than comfortable with our travelling arrangements.

Now I'm sure you would all agree there are two types of Shetlands in this world, Leaders and Followers. I myself am more of what you would call the latter variety. Once my name was called I reluctantly went to my starting position in front dragging my little hooves along in the dust behind me. Personally I felt we had mastered the forward button very well on our journey so to keep my comrades on their toes I chose to practise the emergency stops, I said to my Mum "Relax, Chill" I'm taking the leading role so to speak but not in the way she was asking. I commenced to walk a little, throw in say 5 or 6 trotting steps then grind to a complete halt causing a pile up on the motorway behind me. This behaviour continued for a short time when I noticed Mum was getting a little frustrated. Then 'Considerate Candy' said "Here use my Mums whip" (which was more like a weapon of torture, I'm surprised it would fit in our whip holders), thanks Candy So the Mums swapped whips and we tried again to get some forward momentum. Now I would have to say I probably have a somewhat stubborn little streak in me and on this occasion it surfaced momentarily to the fore front. The gang and the Aunties were killing themselves laughing behind me which I found very entertaining but my Mum wasn't so impressed by my antics. "Look I just couldn't be bothered. OK! It was Hot and I was Tired". In the interests of getting back to Ranfurly before nightfall I was duly delegated to anywhere in the line-up as long as it wasn't in the front.

One short chosen stop on the way home saw Mum and Auntie Geraldine collecting some of those little pine cones on the trail. Couldn't see the point in it myself, you couldn't eat them as they were much too dry but evidently they were to be used as Christmas decorations. Everyone happy we arrived back to the floats, loaded and were driven to Ranfurly for our last night.

Day Six

Friday 3rd November this concluded our little escapade on chosen areas of the Rail Trail. 2 of the gang left us namely our dear friend Candy from Balfour and wee Spot from Outram. We had some great adventures and enjoyed each other's company. Even Spot had come to grow on us and we felt with a bit of fattening up and some steroids to encourage him to grow a cracking coat like ours he could pass as one of us. A unanimous decision was made that we were happy for him to join the Giddy Up Shetland Gang in the future.

We had estimated we had covered some 77 km in the four days which was pretty good going in the constant heat of the Central Otago sun. This was approximately half the distance of the full Central Otago Rail Trail. The scenery was somewhat spectacular and well worth the journey. Just in case you were wondering we did strike quite a few bikers along the way. Many would stop for a bit of chat and take a snappy or two. The bikers don't bother us, as long as they are not coming towards us or coming up from behind at break neck speed we are happy. There's more than enough room on the trail for all of us and we are more than happy to share our track with them. We were all feeling quite fit by this stage. Thinking our journey was coming to an end we commenced our drive back to our respective homes or so we thought. First picking up Malcolm's ride from Auntie Shona's in Oamaru, Auntie Andy, Mum and Auntie Jean had a little extra surprise so we were to find out.

Day Seven

Yesterday we duly arrived in Otekaieke Domain in Duntroon some 15 minutes or so from Kurow. We had stayed overnight with the Carriage Driving South Canterbury Club. Saturday 4th November we awoke to a nice day but not as good as the past weeks temperatures we had felt. There were many more carriages and equine counterparts taking part in the weekends driving including 2 lots of Shetland pairs – Tatty's Girl and Dolly with Aunty Andy and Agnes and Poppy with another good friend Aunty Beth from the Hurunui area. Our day started with a few cones that had been set up in the domain so we could all have a bit of a play and get used to each other. We had a short-ish lunch break before departing up the road. The landscape in this area was so green my mouth constantly watered and my eyes were bulging, gosh if I got loose what a field day I would have. The surrounding hills were majestic as Mum would say and the colours of the Lupins flowering along the adjoining road sides were simply beautiful.

Peter's parents - Uncle Bruce and Aunty Lisa (friends from Oamaru) had managed to arrange a short visit into the large park grounds of Campbell Park Estate on the condition that we stayed for only ten minutes (and no pooh.) The Estate has had an interesting history, it was run as a school from 1908 to 1987, then it was purchased and is currently owned by foreign owners from China and it is hoped in the future that it will be used as a Holiday Park. There are extensive buildings on site as well as the impressive Castle Campus Building up the top of the curving driveway entrance. Some buildings date back to 1861 as well as the original stables that were constructed in 1876. We all enjoyed our visit, it turned out to be much longer than ten minutes and I think most of us managed to relieve ourselves at least once on the sloping driveways up to the magnificent castle structure. I think once 1 started that was it – the flood gates opened, it seemed to become a bit of a competition between us. The Aunties had the pooper scoopers working overtime to keep up. The hosts were very lovely people and seemed to enjoy us visiting their lovely estate, even ignoring our many indiscretions on their driveway. After this we continued up the road a little further and had a quick visit into the entrance and up the long meandering tree lined driveway of another large country estate before heading back down the road to home.

Day Eight

Sunday 5th November wow what a ride were having! Today we went for another spectacular drive up around a loop circuit known as Doctors Point Road which saw us climb up quite high for some stunning views of the surroundings. We were away approximately 3 hours I'm unsure of how many kilometres we had travelled on the last two days outing but possibly it may have been 15-20 or so at a guess. After the morning drive we proceeded to have lunch and pack up for the trip home. All of us handled the conditions very well and our Mums coped with the never ending pressure of deciding what to order for tea each night. What is it they say? Happy Mum, Happy Shetland, Happy Life - I think it is how it goes?

Anyway that's it from me I hope you are all still awake. My hooves are killing me I'm gonna have to soak them in the trough for a while. Bye for now.

Yours Truly Sophie Wilson



XXX OOO



Left to Right – Marianne Smith and Cotswold Alesha, Val Shanks and Spot (Miniature), Karen Wilson and Shilmaine Sophia, Jean Reid and Llewellyn Checkmate, Andrea Price and Beechgrove Belle Bird and Geraldine Edgar and Greenhill Candy

Day 2 – Alexandra to Clyde



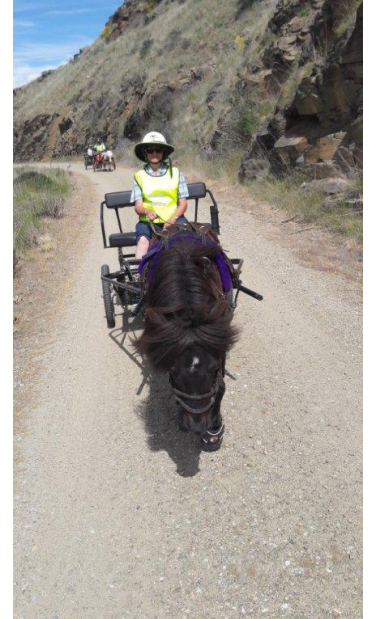
Day 3 – Lauder to Aripo



Day 4 – Lauder to Omakau



Day 5 – Kokanga to Hyde



Day 7 – Otekaieke Domain Campbell Park Estate & Duntroon



SHAPED BY THE STORMS: THE ROLE OF WEATHER IN MAKING SHETLAND PONIES “SHETLAND”
(Re-printed with permission from Catherine Munro)



My research explores how working with ponies and the presence of ponies in Shetland is connected to particular ideas and experiences of Shetland landscapes and identities. During fieldwork it quickly became apparent these relationships could not be fully appreciated without paying attention to the roles of weather.

Shetland is a Subarctic archipelago located one hundred miles from the top of the Scottish mainland. The archaeological record suggests there have been small ponies in Shetland for over 2000 years. In much of Shetland's recorded history, these ponies are seen to have played a pivotal role in Shetland lives and landscapes. They were used for transport, croft work and bringing home fuel from the hills. Some of the most loved and recognizable features of the breed, their diminutive size, woolly coat and abundance of mane and tail are thought to be due to them having evolved, in relative isolation, in an area with poor grazing and little shelter from year round gale force winds.

Weather, especially wind, was a continual feature of days spent with pony breeders. Obviously weather affects day to day work on the croft with certain activities being reserved for particular weathers but here I want to discuss some specific examples that I feel reveal some of the ways weather is an essential part of how people come to understand the animals they work with.

My fieldwork began in winter, so my first meetings with research participants were often during spells of wet and windy weather. A lot of ponies live out in large areas of hill park. As people took me out to meet their ponies they would pay attention to wind speed and direction and use that information to choose where to start looking for the ponies. During the walk, they would often point out areas of the field that particular ponies like to spend time in. These fields have nothing built for the purposes of pony shelter, the features mentioned commonly included hills, hollows, disused peat banks and the broken down walls of abandoned crofts.

In most cases the ponies would be roughly where their owner expected them to be. The times that they were not led them to question the reasons for this. They wondered if they had misread the weather and the ponies were indeed in the right place for the conditions, maybe the weather about to change or possibly that the herd listened to the wrong pony. Although these questions were never specifically answered on the day, just speculated on, these themes – ponies that know where to shelter and are able to predict weather changes and ponies that could not understand weather, recurred in the stories told to me by pony breeders throughout fieldwork.

The first is the type of pony that people wanted to have, that can sense the ways of wind, read the signs of changing weather and lead ponies to correct shelter. Often people would speak of particular ponies, usually an older mare, who has this role in the herd. They know where to go, have enough authority that others will follow and they teach younger ponies the right way to live in that place. The second type of pony, those who can't understand weather, are spoken of in a very different way.

A good example of this is Ebony. Ebony moved to Shetland from Aberdeenshire and her owner said she never fitted in. When the weather changed and the ponies moved to shelter she was left standing in the full force of the gale. She did not understand how to drink from the river, despite being repeatedly shown the bucket being filled from the river, it took her a long time to learn how to find water for herself. Perhaps the most memorable story about Ebony was her inability to understand changing tides. Part of the field would fill with water at high tide, and once during a flood the levels got very high.

The other ponies moved away to higher ground but Ebony just stood, water rising higher and higher and made no effort to move. Her owner said that each day as the level rose, she had to go and check her as she was worried she didn't have the sense not just to stand and drown. Her owner persevered for years, trying to teach her and giving her time to learn from other ponies but after little improvement she decided Ebony needed a new home. She was moved to Orkney – where I was told she now lives in a nice square field, with a purpose built shelter and she is perfectly happy standing there all day. Although Ebony's story may be an extreme example of a Shetland pony that doesn't fit well in Shetland, the basics elements of the story are very common. Many breeders spoke of ponies they felt were "soft", that lost condition in winter that could not find shelter and were generally unhappy in normal Shetland conditions. Ability to live correctly in weather is one of the key attributes by which they decide which ponies they want to work with and are right for the place.

There is a lot of literature emphasising how through living and interacting, people and environments can be understood to be mutually constituted (Anderson 2000:116; Ingold 2000:189-191). The ways previous inhabitants have shaped the landscape can become part of contemporary experiences (Ingold 2000:189). Through particular perceptions of landscape practices, people can connect to wider historic and national identities. Such relationships are not only between humans and places, they include relationships with non-humans (Anderson 2000:116; Lorimer 2004; Grey 1999).

I found this to be particularly true with the pony breeders I worked with. The history of Shetland and the Shetland pony breed are very much intertwined with contemporary ideas about how the breed should be and the type of breeder people aspire to be when they work with their animals.

People were keen to tell me about the hardiness of the Shetland pony breed, how it had evolved, living in herds out on the hills, often with very little human intervention despite Shetland's extreme weather. I was often told that it was their ability to survive and flourish under these conditions that made the Shetland pony breed what it is today. "Most families wouldn't have survived in old Shetland croft life without a pony to do the chores and work the land. So yes I suppose, it does give you a Shetland identity and a feeling of bringing you closer to nature, to Shetland, to the old way of life that we are all very proud of. True island type ponies were working ponies who required low maintenance – they carried, peat or whatever was needed. They were often used on the land and sometimes ploughed, pulled carts, were the family car, an endless list I'm sure and we too insist on breeding ponies capable of performing similar duties". *

As I spent time with pony breeders it became clear that weather is absolutely central to relationships between people, ponies and landscape in Shetland and yet it has been noted that weather is rarely given much consideration in anthropological writing (Ingold 2010:132).

Tim Ingold describes the lack of attention towards weather as resulting from the discipline becoming too narrowly focused towards persons and things (2007:30) and urges a move towards understanding that- "the open world that people inhabit is not prepared for them in advance. It is continually coming into being around them. It is a world, that is, of formative and transformative *processes*. If such processes are of the essence of perception, then they are also of the essence of what is perceived. To understand how people can inhabit this world means attending to the dynamic process of world-formation in which both perceivers and the phenomena they perceive are necessarily immersed" (Ingold 2007:28). So weather is not an external force, it is something we live as part of, and through living in, through being part of this world that we learn about the places we inhabit. (2007:33; 2010:134) and of course who we inhabit them with.

So for the final part of this paper I would like to think about how these ideas about living in this open world and how it relates to relationships between people, ponies, landscape and weather in Shetland.

It is outside, in the wind, that people get to know their ponies, by spending time with them, watching them, learning how they interact with each other and how they move about the landscape and respond to weather. It is through these interactions that ponies become known as the 'right' type of Shetland pony to be part of the stud and well suited to life in Shetland or become recognized as a pony that may be happier living elsewhere. Decisions about individual ponies are not made in advance of this process of getting to know them.

As people taught me the features they valued in their animals they would often explain these attributes in relation to the landscape, history and weather. When a pony moved with flowing, high stepping action, this was described as being a result of their having to pick their feet as they made their way over long distances of heather hill.

They should be sure footed with the intelligence to avoid areas of bog or other danger as they did when they were the primary means of land transport before Shetland's roads were built. They should have strong bones and be capable of working as the Shetland pony was always a working animal, bringing peats home from the hill and doing work on the croft. Their winter coat should be thick, wind and waterproof and the more mane and tail they have the better as these features have allowed them to live outside, all year round, even in Shetland's worst winters.

When people choose which mare and stallion to put together, it is these characteristics that are foremost in their mind. As people would point out the reasons for their choices and what they hoped for from the foal, they would emphasise that it is very hard to predict what the result of any combination will be. It is only after years of knowing each pony and watching their foals grow up that they can begin to predict the offspring fairly accurately and even then there are still surprises. Often as people watched their horses you would hear comments like, “see the way he is right in behind that peat bank, his father did the exact same thing that was his favourite place.” “See how she is with the foals that is just like her grandma, she always taught the little ones well.” Sometimes these family traits can go back generations to include ponies the breeders themselves hadn’t met but whose stories had been told so often that particular defining characteristics were well known.

As with tales of ponies that are good or bad with weather, these stories become intertwined with people’s everyday interactions with their animals. In that way ponies long dead, known from personal experience or through stories of the hardy ponies of the past, are perceived as present and alive in some of the ponies bred on the islands today.

Most ponies today live out in rough hill park, few live out on the expanses of hill that they did in the past and the breed is no longer used for heavy work. Despite recognizing the changing roles and living circumstances of the breed, pony breeders in Shetland emphasise the importance of keeping historic traits. I noticed this was explained both in terms of keeping true Shetland ponies in the place they evolved but also in relation to roles ponies commonly perform today. A frequently used example was the importance of them remaining a highly intelligent breed as if this makes them a safer choice as a young child’s riding pony.

There is concern that increasing numbers of pony breeders, breed ponies to be “cute” and nice colours and do not pay sufficient attention to other breed characteristics. It is feared this lack of attention to history could threaten the breed identity as increasing numbers of cute ponies are bred who may not have the strength, stamina or hardiness of traditional island bred ponies. Certain ways of working with Shetland ponies are also thought to change the historic qualities of the breed. Putting rugs on them, keeping them in small fields and inside stables are all practices described as potentially reducing their hardiness and resulting in ponies without the intelligence or physical ability to survive difficult environmental conditions.

“Because o’ domestication, da wye dat a lot o’ dem is keepit you canna tell whether dir stupid or intelligent because dae dunna hiv da opportunities ta shaa you. Things lik da waddir an’ predictin’ da waddir an’ bein’ able ta fin’ your ain shelter an’ aa dat kinda things, if you ir staandin’ in a peerie (small) paddock wi post an rail fencin an’ a stable, you dinna hiv da need tae do dat an dat instincts must leave you....an’ dan if you hae foals you diunna hae dat knowledge ta pass on tae dem”***

Many breeders, like the one quoted above, describe a duty to continue to breed the ‘right’ type of pony in their native land. To breed from ponies who demonstrate intelligence, strength and ability to find shelter and thrive in the worst weather. They try to keep them in large areas with natural shelter where they need to think for themselves. Through taking these actions they hope to have a particular type of Shetland pony continue to live in Shetland.

So to conclude, I have found Shetland pony breeding is very much a journey. As people work outside with their horses, in the wind, in the rain and in the sun, they are part of a journey that has continued for centuries between people and ponies in this place. Throughout their practices they actively engage with these historic connections, improvising and adapting them, as they work with their ponies, learn from them and make decisions about how each relates to breed identity and identity of the place. Inside over a cup of tea, the wind is still ever present, in the whistling chimneys, rattling windows but also in the stories. Stories celebrating heroic ponies of the past, lamenting overly molly coddled ponies, plans and hopes or the types of pony they want to be part of Shetland’s landscape of the future.

This is a paper presented at the Royal Anthropological Institute conference on Anthropology, Weather and Climate Change May 2016

* Quote from pony breeder who is part of a long running island stud.

** Quote from a breeder who has spent time with Shetland ponies her whole life.

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