



# SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

*Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia*

## MARCH 2013

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



**Ian Scarborough and Muwarra Digger**

*Photo: Karen Inverarity*

**PATRON:**

Mr Rob Vickery

Council Member, Royal Agricultural Society NSW

**[www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au)**

# SHSA NEWS...

## Shire Horse Saddle Cloths – now available

We are very excited to now have official SHSA saddle blankets now for sale!



These are high quality, Australian made woolen saddle cloths, with the SHSA logo and SHIRE written underneath on both sides.

At only \$75 each they are great value.

*(Limited number of black & white in stock, other colours available to order. First preference to exhibitors who wish to use them in the ridden Shire class at Sydney. Free pickup from the Show)*

## SHSA polo shirts and caps



We also have the very popular and comfortable SHSA *Coolmax* polo shirts (\$30) and stylish caps (\$15), which will also be available for pickup from Sydney Royal.

We also have DVDs from past seminar weekends in stock and available for only \$10/session. Topics include: breeding strategy; harness; showing; foal handling; and many more!

## Sydney Royal Shires - Sunday 24 March

Graham Davies, Chairman of the Sydney Royal Horse Committee personally congratulated SHSA on our entry numbers for this year's Sydney Royal, when speaking at our dinner function at the SHSA Seminar weekend.

This year, there are 52 Shires entered (excluding the Ridden class) from a grand total of 20 separate exhibitors!

Of these 52 horses entered, 40 are registered in The Australian Shire Horse Stud Book – a great testament to the ongoing success of our Australian registry. The Ridden Shire Class also has record entries this year – 14 in total!

Congratulations in advance to all exhibitors, and thank you for your support of this largest and most prestigious Shire show in Australia!

09:45am Shire Gelding, 3yrs & under  
10:00am Shire Gelding, 4yrs & over  
10:35am Shire Stallion, 4yrs & over  
10:55am Shire Colt, 2yrs & under 4yrs  
11:20am Shire Colt, under 2yrs.

**11:35am CHAMPION AND RESERVE  
CHAMPION SHIRE STALLION OR  
COLT**

01:10pm Shire Filly, 2yrs & under 4yrs  
01:30pm Shire Filly, under 2yrs  
01:50pm Shire Mare, 4yrs & over

**02:10pm CHAMPION AND RESERVE  
CHAMPION SHIRE MARE OR FILLY**

**02:35pm SUPREME CHAMPION SHIRE**  
2:50pm Ridden Shire Stallion, Mare or Gelding, any age.

All Shire exhibitors are stabled in the Grace Pavilion. Please join us for an informal get together with Judge Mr Anthony Wass from the UK at locker number 65 after the judging. Call Ineke on 0408 669 638 if you need directions.

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# SHSA Seminar and Clinic report

*By Emma Thomas*

Despite a forecast for an oppressively hot day in January, more than 60 heavy horse lovers gathered for a weekend of learning, laughing and (of course!) talking about and working with heavy horses...

We kicked off the day with a very informative session by Ranvet on feeding broodmares and growing horses. Even the experienced horse lovers in attendance learned a few things! The Ranvet reps stayed long after their presentation to answer questions and provide personalised diet plans based on pasture and individual situation for horse owners who were interested.

The next session was an excellent practical presentation in a round yard by Scott Brody. Scott is a very experienced horseman who is currently the head of Racing NSW Thoroughbred Retraining Program.



He's also spent the last 15 years working with heavy horses through the Cedars Shire Horse Stud. Scott's session was all about groundwork – combining natural horsemanship with classical principles. We'd like to say a big thank you to *Mingara Alexandria* for being such a willing model, and to her owners Daryn & Tania Post for loaning her to us!

After lunch Greg Hogan did a great presentation on home health care for your horse. He shared some excellent tips and tricks on caring for horses – from wound management to alternative products (like nappies instead of expensive horse specific dressings!) and injection sites. He also used Ingleside's mare Rhiannon to do a very helpful demonstration on administering IV injections – without actually injecting her of course! Greg manages the Sydney University Horse Unit for the Faculty of Veterinary Science and was a fabulous resource to have at our seminar. Many participants got the

opportunity to speak with Greg and get some interesting questions answered.

Our final session on Saturday was a fantastic presentation on innovations in driving and harness by Mark Peel and Ross Carbery. Mark spent quite some time covering the many (many!) different bits on the market and the benefits of each one. Ross brought in our faithful demo horse Rhiannon and harnessed her from start to finish, talking through every step. They also covered shoeing heavy horses. This session involved a lot of laughter and excellent information. Ross & Mark are both a wealth of knowledge in this area and worked very well together to create a fabulous presentation everyone enjoyed.



As always, Saturday evening was a relaxing social gathering with a great meal. There was many a great conversation to be had, most of which centred on our wonderful four-legged friends! We were honoured to have Graham Davey, Chairman of the RAS NSW Horse Committee, as a special guest for the night. Graham made some very positive comments about our SHSA community and his pleasure at seeing such a brilliant gathering of heavy horse enthusiasts.



Sunday saw three very popular clinics running simultaneously. There was an all-day riding clinic with instruction from three great instructors – participants spent time on basic horse handling, riding skills and introductory jumping, and were lucky enough to receive both group and individual tuition. This particular clinic had an incredible turnout. Everyone involved had a fantastic time and walked away with a huge smile on their face.



Meanwhile, Ross and Mark were running driving clinics. Mark, who recently returned home from six months working with Boyd Exell in Europe, covered ground driving for improved harness driving. Rhiannon was, once again, a very faithful helper.



Ross did several individual lessons with owners who had brought a horse and cart along.

It was absolutely wonderful to see lots of heavy horses being ridden and driven all day.



We also had a great raffle with some brilliant prizes donated to raise some much-needed funds for the Shire Horse Society Australia to continue promoting the breed. Thank you to everyone who donated prizes or purchased tickets – your support is much appreciated.

So despite a forecast of 37 degrees and many frightening bushfire threats around the country, the Shire Horse Society Australia's annual seminar was an absolute success! We'd like to thank everyone who came along and participated – we were exceedingly pleased with the number of people and the atmosphere they created.

**We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who pitched in and lent a hand - but in particular the following:**

**Sugarloaf Shires** – for donating a suckling pig and a lamb for the spit

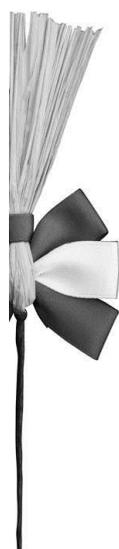
**Phil Robinson** – who proved to be a wonderful spit roast chef and carver extraordinaire

**Darkmoor Shires** – for donating enough sausages to keep sixty people in lunch and breakfast for two days

**John and Faye Post** – for hours and hours of cooking, chopping, and tidying up so we could focus on the horses

**Mike Ryan** – for spending two long days behind a video camera so we could produce DVDs of the seminar

**Byron Biffin** – for willingly providing muscle and time for relocating round yards, moving horses and building obstacle courses and jumps.



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# Clinic Photo Gallery

Photos thanks to Karen Inverarity







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## Online for sale horses

*(click the name to go to the ad)*

### [Viewfield Kingston](#)

Weanling black colt by Ingleside Dancer out of Ingleside Felicity.  
\$5,000 – Tasmania



### [Mirribandi Zen Zorro](#)

Grey yearling colt by Luscombe What's Wanted and out of Wyee Selene.  
\$16,000 – Queensland.

### [Mirribandi Angel](#)

Yearling black filly by Luscombe What's Wanted and out of Mirribandi Lou Lou  
\$6,000 – Queensland

### [Turnara Lodge Ellie](#)

Shire sport horse by Southern Cross Boxer out of a Paint mare. \$5,500 - NSW



### [Ingleside Rockwell](#)

Weanling bay colt by Longcopy Helvetica Black out of Ingleside Anastasia  
\$4,000 – NSW



### [Rumneyhill Holly](#)

Weanling grey filly by Goose Green John Wesley out of Wincanton Wilhemina \$16,500 – Tasmania



### [Ingleside Jubilee](#)

Weanling bay filly by Oakridge Speculator out of Aarunga Gina.  
\$6,000 – NSW



### [Rumneyhill Jasmine](#)

3 year old bay filly by Acle Duke out of Wincanton Wilhemina. \$12,000 – Tasmania.



# An Open Book

## The history of the English Shire Horse Stud Book

*Based on information from the book 'The Shire Horse'*

The Shire Horse is steeped in a history that extends back a thousand years to the time of William the Conqueror (1066). For centuries the people of England bred for a particular type of horse with similar characteristics. Over time that horse has been known by different names: the Great Horse; the War-Horse; the Cart Horse; the Old England Black Horse; and the Lincolnshire Giant. The name "Shire" was first applied by King Henry VIII to the horse early in the 16th century.

The formation of the stud book in 1880 represented the start of a nation-wide breeding program that saw a rapid improvement in the type of horse produced by breeders. These horses were known as English Cart Horses, with the words "Shire Horse" first used officially in 1884.

Until the publication of the first stud book, breeders used mares and stallions based on what they could physically see around where they lived, and heard by word of mouth. Stallions travelled around in the breeding season, but knowledge about stallions was very local.



Fig. 42 Carlton was a popular destination for charabanc outings. Mr Dowling's party, 85 in number, admire Lincoln What's Wanted II, the 1926 London champion.

The stud book was empowering for the average horse owner in ways we take for granted today.

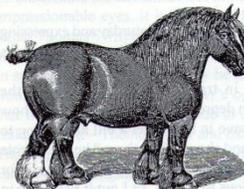
With no modern transport or communications, and little travel available to the poorer farmer,

the stud book made a huge difference to their opportunities.

Keith Chivers puts it beautifully:

***"When men could look at one prize winner, and know the breeding, and then look at some others and know that they were by the same sire, or were otherwise related, book knowledge was transformed into practical wisdom and intelligent men could even think in terms of bloodlines and other subtle calculations designed to perpetuate the best qualities and eliminate the worst."*** (p163)

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**HONEST TOM 5,123** is well known as a getter of the Best and Soundest Stock in the Kingdom. Note his record at the leading Shows for the past three years, also the number of horses got by him kept entire in these days when weight and substance, with success, are required.

Note the result of London Show, 1894, where Nine Animals were entered got by him, and every one PASSED the VETS, with result as follows: FIVE Prizes, one B.C. and one C.; and some increase prices realized.

**DOUBLE TOM 14,595**, Bay, is a member of that marvellous family of Honest Tom's 5,123, and the dam of Double Tom is a brown mare of enormous weight and character, and sound. Pedigree: Sire, Honest Tom 5,123 (Forshaw's); Dam, Bright by Honest Tom 3,144; granddam, Snowy by Black Head 1,208. Limited to 50 mares at 62 5s. each.

*For Pedigree see Stud Book. Cards and Particulars will be forwarded on application to the Owner.*

**JAMES FORSHAW, Carlton-on-Trent, near Newark.**

P.S.—Station Five Minutes' Walk from this Stud. All parties interested in Shire Horses are welcome to View this Stud.

Fig. 18 A typical advertisement in *The Live Stock Journal*. Double Tom, a son of Honest Tom, was spotted on his veterinary rounds by Richard, who bought him and then sold him on to his father.

This initial stud book was established in 1880 by an appointed committee, who knew what a Cart Horse/Shire type was. It was an 'open stud book', with horses that met the correct type, as determined by the stud book committee, allowed direct entry.

Of the horses entered, the committee collected stallion service cards (which were used by stallion owners and contained a record of the mares covered by each horse) and spoke to reputable breeders, stallion men and other people, writing down the breeding histories of these horses. It was amazing how much knowledge there was about the ancestry of this type of horse, even prior to the stud book opening.

Since the establishment of this open stud book, at no stage has the Shire Horse Society (SHS)

closed it so as to admit only the daughters of horses already included.

The philosophy of the SHS from its inception was that it would be, and would remain, an open book. Keith Chivers states in *The Shire Horse*, that although the men running the Society were very wealthy and owned herds of Shires, they did not act out of selfish, commercial, or vested interests, or aim to keep the registration opportunities to themselves.

Rather they wanted to offer even the smallest breeder and farmer the opportunity to convert their respectable mares into pedigree Shires, by the simple process of using a top class stallion. As well as that, they wanted these breeders to have the opportunity to do well at shows with their improved horses.

This admirable philosophy of inclusiveness and accessibility to the Shire Stud Book has continued right through the past 125 years, and remains to this day.

Until 1939, entry to the stud book was allowed to foals whose owner could state that its dam, grand dam, or another ancestor even further back was a Shire cross. If they could show some evidence, such as the stallion service cards, and/or if they were known by Shire owners, or even if they just sounded factual, the foal was allowed into the stud book. Sometimes, good show results alone were enough for a horse to gain acceptance into the stud book, with no reference to the horse's parentage.



Of course, after the stud book commenced, if both parents were already in the stud book then the progeny went directly in.

It wasn't until 1939 that the two grading registries (A and B, as they exist today) were introduced. They represented a tightening of the rules of the open stud book into a more formalised system.

From this point, foals that did not have both parents registered would be introduced via the grading registries, rather than directly into the full registry. Females were now required to show three crosses with a Shire stallion to gain full registry. First crosses would go into the A Registry, second crosses into the B Registry, and third crosses into the Full Registry.

The grading registry information was produced in a separate book as an 'appendix' to the stud book until 1942 when a pocket was included in the back of the book to hold them. The term 'appendix register' still remains in use today, despite these horses now being included in the main body of the published stud book.

In 1942 these rules were again relaxed, allowing breeders to grade up without going through the registries, but directly into the full registry.

However at a SHS meeting in 1943 Mr



Fig.1 Tom Forshaw, the second and longest-living Oak, 1865-1955

Tom Forshaw, SHS Council member and the biggest Shire stallion owner in the UK (who never missed the London/Spring Show from 1880 till 1955!), suggested that in recognition of the similarities between the Shire and the Clydesdale, that

***“the Shire cross filly foal, by a registered Shire stallion out of a registered Clydesdale mare be admitted to Appendix B, instead of Appendix A, of the grade register.”*** (p473)

This was supported by a unanimous vote and the rule has remained unaltered for the past 70 years.

Thus the crossing of Shires and Clydesdales, which had always gone on across both sides of the England/Scotland border, was formally recognised to be of special benefit to the Shire Horse. A filly out of a Clydesdale mare was now one step closer to the full registry than a mare out of an unregistered draught mare.

It is interesting to note that in 1938, 50 years after the stud book was opened, of the 1036 new mare registrations, 272 (over 25%) were out of unregistered mares, and of the 292 new stallion registrations, 44 (11%) had dams which had to be entered into the stud book at the same time to make their sons eligible for the stallion registry.

In fact, it was not until 1950 that the stallion section closed to admit only colts out of already registered parents, 70 years after the inception of the stud book.

To this day, the Shire and Clydesdale stud books in Great Britain remain closely linked, each allowing grading with the other breed into their respective stud books.

The Clydesdale has had a profound influence on the Shire Horse, in particular improving the quality of the legs and feet, addressing some soundness issues that plagued the breed in its earlier days. In modern times, almost every successful show horse in England can be traced back to Clydesdale roots, either via the grading registries, or through the unofficial 'swapping in' of Clydesdale stallions for similarly marked Shires prior to the introduction of blood typing (and now DNA testing) in the early 1980s.

As Keith Chivers says in his book about the two breeds:

*"If the two "breeds" had been as different as the Suffolk or Percheron is from either, chaos would have resulted. But they are, as they have always been, two varieties of the same British cart-horse."* (P479)

---

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# Canberra Royal Judge's Report

*by SHSA Panel Judge, Tim Peel*

Canberra celebrated its 100th show this year with good entries in all livestock sections. It was generally a wet show but in the Shire Classes we were able to dodge the rain.

In the led classes the first place male [Darkmoor Da Vinci] was a colt foal that I felt had a lot of potential in the future. He was a typical foal on the day, but with no obvious faults. I was particularly impressed with his feet and joints, flat bone and lovely quality hair.



The first placed female [Ingleside Elsa], was a classic shire filly, with lovely clean joints and hocks and moved well on the day. She was turned out in immaculate condition. I feel this filly has got a great future as a show mare, but also as a breeder. I think if put to the right stallion, she will breed the quality clean jointed free moving horses the Shire breeders in Australia are looking for.



The winner in the gelding class [Tullymore Sir Lancelot] was a magnificent animal with quality, size, substance, a horse that would move weight. He had ample soft silky flowing hair, correct pastern set, broad hoof head and foot, with action and outlook, which is sought after in a harness gelding.



I have always maintained that geldings are a barometer of the standard of the breed.

In fact, if the first four mature geldings in the gelding class were broken into harness tomorrow, and shown as a four horse team in a lorry at any royal show in Australia, the team that beat them would be an exceptional team.



So if the above geldings are an example of what breeders are breeding and what stallions are producing, I think the breed has a got a bright future in Australia.

Champion Shire went to Ingleside Elsa, and Reserve Champion to Tullymore Sir Lancelot.

In the heavy harness section, a Shire gelding [Southern Cross Kenworth] won his class, then went on to become Champion Heavy Harness Horse of the Show. This horse has a great future in harness with a bit more work and experience under his belt.



## Show season gallery

*A selection of images from some NSW shows this season.  
Thanks to Cai Thomas of Darkmoor Shires for sending them in!*



Canberra Royal – Robyn Chapman with Southern Cross Kenworth



Canberra Royal – Sugarloaf Shires enter the ring



Canberra Royal – Denise Tyce with Tullymore Sir Lancelot

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*Crookwell Show – Ingleside Anastasia and Olympia and Darkmoor Da Vinci*



*Canberra Champion Class – Ingleside Elsa and Darkmoor Da Vinci*



*Crookwell Show – Darkmoor Da Vinci*



*Canberra Royal – Ingleside Elsa, Champion Shire*



*Crookwell Show – Darkmoor Da Vinci and Ingleside Olympia*



*Canberra Royal – Darkmoor Da Vinci*

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**Bungendore Show – Ingleside Anastasia**



**Bungendore Show – Beandema Samson**



**Bungendore Show – Cedars Jock**



**Canberra Royal – Southern Cross Kenworth**



**Canberra Royal – Cedars Jock**

## Upcoming Show Schedule

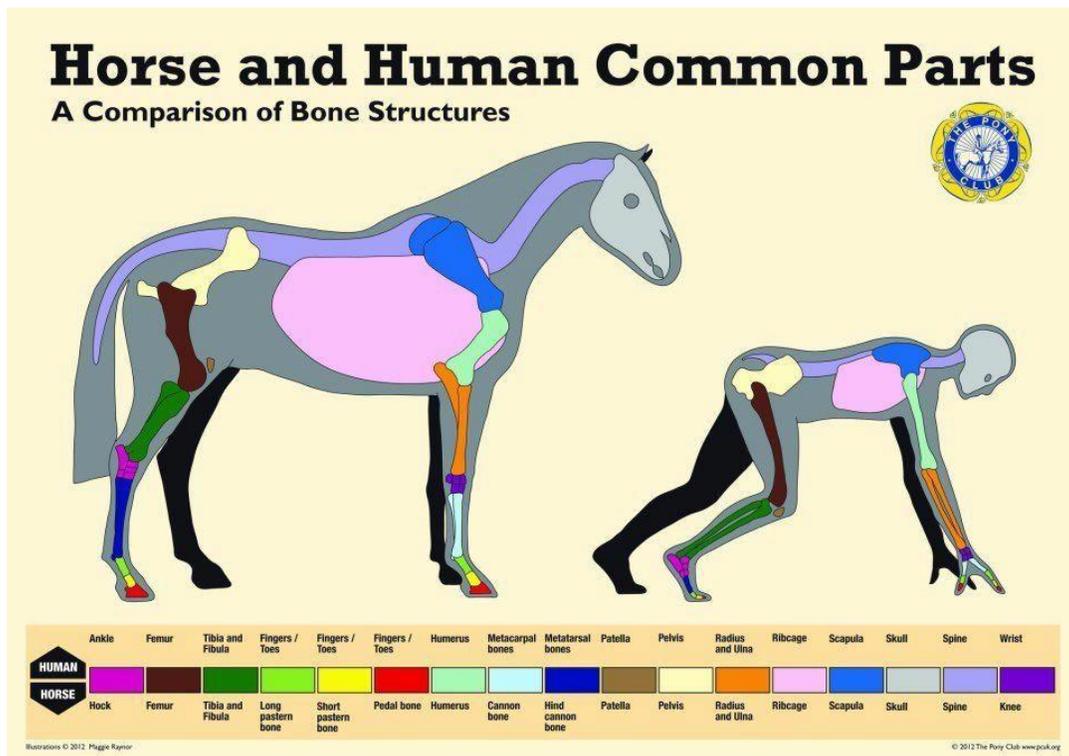
| Show                                     | State | Date                                | Type  |
|--|-------|-------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Sydney Royal<br/>Entries Closed</b>   | NSW   | Sunday 24<br>March                  | Shire, ridden                                 |
| <b>Warwick Show</b>                      | Qld   | 7 April                             | Shire, Clyde, DH,<br>other, ridden,<br>driven |
| <b>Hawkesbury</b>                        | NSW   | 19,20,21 April                      | All   |
| <b>Gatton Heavy<br/>Horse Field Days</b> | Qld   | 4 <sup>th</sup> 5 <sup>th</sup> May | All   |

**Ed:** Please contact the publicity officer to add an event to the calendar. [Ine\\_kuiper@hotmail.com](mailto:Ine_kuiper@hotmail.com)

## ***Stop Press***

All Sydney Royal heavy horse exhibitors and enthusiasts are invited to join the Clydesdale Society for a get-together in the evening after the Shire and Clydesdale judging starting at 6.30pm at locker 40.

**\*WARNING\*** – there may be bagpipes....



### **SHSA Newsletter Advertising**

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*The Classifieds and Service listings are free to all SHSA members and approved friends.*

SHSA welcomes new members for both full and associate membership. Please go to [www.shirehorsesociety.com.au](http://www.shirehorsesociety.com.au) and download an application form if you know anyone who'd like to join.

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