

20th INTERNATIONAL WELSH SHOW: SYDNEY 2019

2019 was a special year for the Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Australia (WPCSoA), as it marked the 50th Anniversary of the Society's establishment. Whilst Welsh ponies and cobs were among the earliest livestock brought to Australia from Britain after the arrival of white settlers in 1788, there was no Stud Book in the Colony and many of the early bloodlines were consequently lost in time.

It wasn't until September 1969 that a small group of Welsh pony breeders met in a feed locker at the Royal Melbourne Show to discuss the formation of a Welsh Pony and Cob Society in Australia. Twelve months later, the Society was recognised by the Welsh Pony and Cob Society UK. From those early beginnings, the WPCSoA has grown into a well-respected and thriving Society, in an excellent financial position and with around 3,000 members and 2,000 pony registrations annually of Welsh and Part Welsh animals.

Much of the WPCSoA's activity in 2019 centred on celebrating this special Anniversary. The first major event was the Annual General Meeting and Conference, which was held in Sydney at the stunning William Inglis Hotel at Warwick Farm Racecourse. Many rooms had a bird's eye view of the racetrack and early morning trackwork. Participants were treated to a 50th Anniversary dinner and disco dancing in the beautiful big horse barn which has graced many famous racehorses and to lunch in the Thoroughbred Sales complex. Many of us wished we could take home the exquisite door handles to the barns and stables, if not the actual stables themselves.

However, the highlight of the year was Australia's hosting of the 20th International Welsh Show on 23rd and 24th November 2019. This was, for many Australians, a once in a lifetime event. The venue was the beautiful Sydney International Equestrian Centre (SIEC), which is a purpose built equestrian facility established for the Sydney Olympic Games in 2000. The Show attracted around 450 entries from around Australia, with some competitors travelling around 10,000 kilometres round trip to compete at the International Show and the Victorian All Welsh Show which was held the following weekend! These are distances of truly international proportions, and were not for the faint-hearted.

An international flavour was created, not only by our overseas judges who kindly gave of their time to officiate, but also by around 50 guests who came from many parts of Europe, the UK and New Zealand to watch, lead and help. The show would not have been the success it was without the very long hours put in by some of our overseas friends and the Australian committee and helpers throughout the Show. Some animals competing with UK- based prefixes rounded out the

international theme. The influence of imported ponies and cobs and semen was also strongly seen in the pedigrees of so many animals which competed.

There were some worrying moments in the week or two immediately preceding the show as bushfires almost ringed Sydney, but the show did go ahead! The quality of ponies and cobs competing at the International Show was of truly international standard and provided a wonderful opportunity for Australia to showcase its best. Once the smoke from surrounding bushfires lifted, spectators were able to enjoy the animals and scenery even more.

The Welsh Mountain ponies were judged by Colin Tibbey, Lacy Stud UK, and Anna Jutestrand Tollbom, Burhults Stud, Sweden. They had many quality ponies from which to choose, with good entries and depth in most classes. The International Supreme Champion Welsh Mountain Pony was the stallion Vanoca Park Lady-Smith, bred and exhibited by Ashley Porter. Lady-Smith is by Llanfairbryn Goldrush and out of Nattai Dark Lady. In an incredible double for Ashley Porter, Lady-Smith's dam, Nattai Dark Lady, was Runner Up Supreme Champion Welsh Mountain Pony. Dark Lady is by Nattai Gwydion and out of Nattai Lady Moonspite.

The Welsh ponies were judged by Kevin Walker, Brynoffa Stud UK, and Ad Beekman, Lintelo Stud, Netherlands. Again, entries were very good in this section with depth and numbers in most classes. The International Supreme Champion Welsh Pony was the stallion Imperial Pavarotti, bred and exhibited by Mark Bullen. Pavarotti is by Eyarth Tigma (imp UK) and out of Imperial Picture Show.

The Welsh Ponies of Cob Type and the Welsh Cobs were judged by Julie Evans, Haighmoor Stud, UK and Mie Christiansen, Chopin Stud, Denmark. While the number of entries in these sections was not as high, there were many lovely animals forward. The International Supreme Champion Welsh Pony of Cob Type was the brood mare Meithrin Amazing Grace, bred by Meithrin Stud and owned by Ashley Porter. Amazing Grace is by Cataraqui Hasufel and out of Bookra Maggie May.

The International Supreme Champion Welsh Cob was the 2 year old filly Salient Park Jayne Rees, bred and exhibited by Blair Farley. Jayne Rees is by Penybrenin Hughburt (imp UK) and out of Cwmkaren Brenhindref.

Ad Beekman and Kevin Walker also judged the Part Welsh. International Champion Part Welsh went to the gelding, Cheraton Caesar, bred and exhibited by Rosemary Parker. Caesar is by Cheraton True Blue and out of Cheraton Royal Symphony.

Harness classes were well supported on the first day of the show, judged by Ad Beekman and Max Pearce, Beauwood Stud, Australia. International Champion

Driven Welsh was Negaro Harmony bred by and exhibited by the Barlows. International Champion Driven Part Welsh was Glenwood Limited Edition.

Moving on to the Overall Supremes of the Show held on the Saturday evening, in the order that they were judged, the International Supreme Champion Part Welsh Exhibit of the Show was Cheraton Caesar.

Gelding classes are very well supported in Australia and are hotly contested, usually more so than colt and stallion classes. International Supreme Gelding of the Show was the gelding of Section C breeding, Wingana James Bond, bred and exhibited by Scott Chipperfield. He is by Wingana Justin Black and out of Wingana Saucy Girl.

The International Best Youngstock Exhibit of the Show was the Section A yearling filly, Eagle Park Venus, bred and exhibited by Daniel Harvey. Venus is by Imperial Baledur and out of Imperial Veronika.

And the Grand Finale in Hand event, the International Best Welsh Exhibit of the Show, was won by Vanoca Park Lady-Smith, capping off a dream show for Ashley Porter.

The next day saw Ridden Welsh and Part Welsh classes judged by Kevin Walker and Julie Evans. International Supreme Champion Ridden Welsh Exhibit was Elvonara Park Wannabe Famous. International Supreme Ridden Part Welsh went to Cheraton Caesar, completing a remarkable double supreme both in hand and ridden.

On a sadder note, 2019 will also be remembered by many Welsh pony and cob enthusiasts in Australia as the year many parts of Australia experienced the worst drought conditions on record and when bushfires ravaged the country before we were even into the heat of summer. At the time of writing, more than 100 bushfires are burning out of control in New South Wales alone. That so many people managed to bring their animals to our major shows under such trying conditions demonstrates just how passionate Australians are about their Welsh ponies and cobs and what sacrifices they are prepared to make to promote the breed in Australia.

Janet Murphy 2019 Keyi Stud, Australia

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The 21st International Show will be hosted by the German Welsh Pony and Cob Society and the show will be held at the Aachen show grounds on 28th and 29th August, 2021. This venue is the same one used for that most successful and enjoyable International Show held in Germany in 2003

20th INTERNATIONAL WELSH SHOW

Opening Ceremony



Glenys Lilley



Glenys Lilley

And in closing, the International Supreme



Lisa Gordon

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International Supreme Welsh Exhibit: Vanoca Park Lady-Smith



International Champion Driven Welsh: Nagaro Harmony

20th INTERNATIONAL WELSH SHOW



Lisa Gordon

International Supreme Section A: Vanoca Park Lady-Smith



Lisa Gordon

International Supreme Section B: Imperial Pavarotti

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International Supreme Section C: Meithrin Amazing Grace



International Supreme Section D: Salient Park Jayne Rees

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International Supreme Part Welsh: Cheraton Caesar



International Supreme Welsh Gelding: Wingana James Bond

20th INTERNATIONAL WELSH SHOW



Lisa Gordon

International Supreme Welsh Youngstock: Eagle Park Venus



Glenys Lilley

International Champion Driven Part-Welsh: Glenwood Limited Edition

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Lisa Gordon

International Supreme Ridden Welsh: Envonara Park Wannabe Famous



Lisa Gordon

International Supreme Ridden Part-Welsh: Cheraton Caesar

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Glenys Lilley

Four In-Hand: Carlyle Luke, Carlyle PayPal, Carlyle Shakespeare and Carlyle Sultan



Glenys Lilley

Double Harness: Mosman Park Foxtrot and Mosman Park Vanity

My appreciation to Glenys Lilley of Foxwood Photography and Lisa Gordon and Peter Boyle of LMG Photography for providing all these superb photographs