



SHIRE HORSE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA

INCORPORATED

Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia

NOVEMBER 2009

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



2009 Sydney Royal Easter Show Ridden Shire Class

Photo courtesy of Coady Graphics Photography

PATRON:

Mr Rob Vickery

Council Member, Royal Agricultural Society NSW

www.shirehorsesociety.com.au

SHSA *NEWS*

SHSA Photo Gallery

Visit www.shirehorsesociety.com.au to check out our new photo gallery. Our webmaster, Andrew Gunter, has done a great job, designing it so the photos come up on every Society page on the site, in random order. To get the ball rolling, Andrew used a collection of photos we used for our major fund raiser last year.

However, we would love to include more photos showcasing our members and their horses, so if you have any great shots of your horse(s) and/or foals, either at home or at shows, please send them to ine_kuiper@hotmail.com by 31 December 09. The aim of the gallery is to have a selection of attractive photos of Shires for visitors to the site to appreciate our wonderful horses.

Nb: the photos in the gallery will not be captioned.

New Import



Congratulations to Marty Hayward who is about to import another mare from the UK for his Shire Stud. The mare is Grovemere Rebecca, who is by Trofarth Cymro and out of Grovemere Sarah. She is in foal to Bill Bedford's stallion Brownroyd Dark Shadow.

Clydesdale and Heavy Horse Field Days 2010 at Gatton

It is with disappointment that the SHSA has to announce that once again we will not be supporting the Gatton Clydesdale and Heavy Horse Field Days (GHHFD) in 2010.

On behalf of our members we have submitted a request to the GHHFD committee last year and this year requesting they include A and B registered Shires in their Shire Classes – as they are for Shire Horse Society UK Affiliated shows (approx 150) as well as Sydney, Perth, Melbourne, and Brisbane Royals.

This request has again been rejected by the GHHFD committee. As a result, the SHSA is not supporting the event, and encourage our members to attend Esk show instead (held 21-22 May – 3 weeks later) or the Jondaryan Draught Horse Expo (12-13 June) 2010' as they abide by the rules of both SHSA and SHS UK.

Reminder – free registration closing

The free registration offer for the SHSA Australian Shire Horse Stud Book finishes 31 December 2009. If you haven't dual registered yet you need to hurry to take advantage of this offer. All you need is to send the photocopies of your UK passports to Deb Buckland.

Remember, all Royal and Agricultural Shows in Australia recognise the SHSA Australian Shire Horse Stud Book.

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SHSA *NEWS* continued....

New Shire Sporthorse registry
The brand new SHSA Shire Sporthorse registry will be open for business from 1 January 2010. Graham West has again offered his services to us and designed a fabulous new registration certificate.



We are again extremely grateful to Graham for offering his amazing artistic abilities to us free of charge and coming up with such a beautiful design.

The registry is for Shire/Light horse crosses, and then Shire Sporthorse/light horse crosses (¼ Shires). The registry is not a stud book, but a service for those who are breeding Shire Sporthorses for the performance horse market.

Registered Shire Sporthorses will be eligible for Equestrian Australia events and other horse sporting events. They are not eligible for Shire Breed Classes.

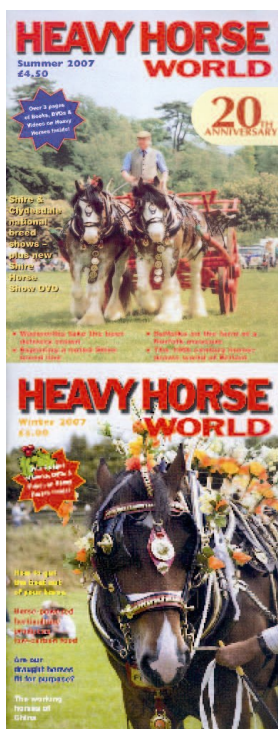
For more information, contact our Registrar Deb Buckland on 03 6396 3213 or deb.buckland@bigpond.com

US Marine Member

The SHSA welcomes our first US marine member – Sergeant RM Williams! He visited Australia on deployment training with the Royal Australian Army and owns a Shire gelding, William Sir Onyx, who is 5 years old and 17 hands.



William Sir Onyx



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Helene and Greg Scarf again invite all SHSA members to...

SHSA MEMBER SEMINAR/SOCIAL WEEKEND: THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

ABOUT SHOWING SHIRES

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th January 2010

9.30am Start

Venue; The Cedars, Kangaroo Valley

Program:

Saturday:

Show Ring Etiquette – Ann Gilbert
What is expected in the ring and why

Showing in Harness – Tim Peel
Harness and Vehicles –
The hidden and unexpected intricacies

Shire Presentation – Ineke Kuiper
Tricks and tips on turning out a Shire for
breed and harness classes

Sunday: Shire Horse Society Australia AGM

As usual the weekend is fully catered, with breakfasts,
lunch & a *Gourmet BBQ dinner* on Saturday night.

ACCOMMODATION – Camping facilities available for tents,
swags and trucks/floats. Bathroom & kitchen facilities provided.

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL as the event is **FULLY CATERED**

Contact Ineke by **Monday 4th January** to reserve your place
ine_kuiper@hotmail.com or 0408 669 638

Cost: \$30pp Kids free

nb: You must be a member to attend – joining available on the day - \$10

Only \$30
head

FULLY
CATERED

Queensland Royal Report

SHSA President and Secretary, Helene Scarf and Helene Kuiper, attended the 2009 Queensland Royal Show (Ekka) to support the reintroduced Shire Classes.

It was exciting to see the wonderful job that Debbie Ormond and Michelle Milnes did in setting up the Shire Breed Display. Many hours of work went into the display itself, and then Deb and Michelle also put on several half hour demonstrations every day for the crowd.

Deb harnessed, long reined, saddled and rode her stallion, Southern Cross Spitfire, for the crowd and he behaved beautifully and was real crowd pleaser.

On behalf of all our members we want to thank Deb and Michelle for doing such a wonderful job of promoting our breed. And Deb was showing as well!!

It was lovely to see Shires in the ring again. Colin Cox judged and Helene Scarf presented the SHSA trophy to the Champion Shire, Ingleside Bright Spark, Pam and Kelvin Smith's gelding. Debbie Ormond's Southern Cross Spitfire won the stallion class and her mare Wyee Bonnie Lass won the mare class.

The Ekka has announced they will be holding Shire Classes again in 2010, and after further discussions with SHSA have agreed to update the program to accommodate young horses and to fix an obvious loophole in the Ridden Heavy Horse rules that allowed light horses to enter this year.



Ingleside Bright Spark, Champion Shire



Southern Cross Spitfire under saddle



The Shire display draws a crowd. Special thanks to Deb who made Spitfire available the entire time.



Michelle Milnes leading Wyee Bonnie Lass



Michelle & Deb in front of their Shire Horse stand

Ed: Thanks to Katy Driver for taking such great photos at Brisbane and letting us use them!

Perth Royal Shire Classes and new regulations

Congratulations to exhibitors at Perth Royal this year, and to SHSA Panel Judge, Max Marriott, who presided over all the heavy horse breeds as well as a number of other breeds.

Results

BEST PRESENTED

1st Robert Young COLONIAL AMBASSADOR
2nd Sorrell Watson SOUTHERN CROSS
MALLEE BOY
3rd Janine Shields SOUTHERN CROSS SIR
CHARLES

MARE OR FILLY ANY AGE

1st Robert Young COLONIAL OLIVE BRANCH

STALLION, COLT OR GELDING ANY AGE

1st Robert Young COLONIAL AMBASSADOR
2nd Sorrell Watson SOUTHERN CROSS
MALLEE BOY
3rd Robert Young COLONIAL JACK
4th Janine Shields SOUTHERN CROSS SIR
CHARLES

CHAMPION SHIRE HORSE

Robert Young COLONIAL AMBASSADOR

Program changes

We have been notified by the Perth Royal Horse Committee that our request for a separate Shire gelding class has been accepted, so in 2010 geldings will not only have their own class but will also be eligible for Champion – another SHSA request.

It is great that Perth Royal continues to strongly support our breed, and they have said they appreciated the pleasant and enthusiastic Shire exhibitors who showed there this year.

They also asked us to pass on that they have introduced the following new regulation:

3.1.1 No exhibitor may show an Exhibit bred by or leased from the judge or his family in the ring in which the Judge is officiating.

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Contact Andrew: 07 5599-4463 or andrewg@ita.com.au

Classifieds

For sale: Harrune Park Chalk Boy



Reg Bay shire gelding, DOB 22/09/09. White face, 4 x Stockings, Sweet nature, Started basic handling. \$3800

Contact Brooke – 0438 727 317 or 03 6394 7070
brook.blundstone@bigpond.com

For sale: Ingleside Sunrise



Shire gelding, born 2/11/09.

Sunny is by Oakridge Speculator (imp UK) & out of one of our best broodmares, Locksley Farm Rhiannon (Clydesdale). Bay with 3 white socks, we anticipate he will mature over 18hh as he is the largest foal we have had yet.

Already with great head carriage & action, he has the makings of a spectacular harness horse. He has a very bright personality & is a pleasure to work with. Registered and well handled, he will be ready for pick up in April 2010. \$4000
Contact Ingleside Shires on 02 4683 1664,
hkuiper@bigpond.net.au, ine_kuiper@hotmail.com

Shire Horse greeting cards



"Norman" is the Shire horse who lives and works at Salt's Mill in West Yorkshire. He is pictured in his loosebox relaxing at the end of the day.

Greeting cards with full-colour picture of Norman \$3.00 each, with envelope, in cello bag.

Pack of ten cards with envelopes \$25.00

Cards by Christine Hill, Artist, Thirroul.

Contact Christine 02 4267 2549
hillsco@tpg.com.au

Frozen semen for sale – Grey Shire
Goose Green John Wesley



Imported from the UK

Grey Shire, born 2003, Premium, 18.2hh

Cost:

\$1200 (inc GST) per breeding dose or \$5500 (inc GST) for 5 doses

Contact Adele on 0427613973 or
ahi45862@bigpond.net.au

Shire Horses in New Zealand – the Early History

By Michael Trotter

If you look into the history of horses in New Zealand, you won't find any mention of Shires until towards the end of the 19th century. Initially this could be a bit puzzling as their very close cousins, the Clydesdale, was well established in the 1840s. And even today the two are often interbred. So why no early Shires?

If you broaden the scope of your search, the answer is not hard to find. The name "Shire" was not adopted by its breed society in Great Britain until 1884 and it was not universally in use until well into the 20th century. The website of the Shire Horse Society in the UK (www.shire-horse.org.uk) tells us that the breed was previously called the Black Horse or the English Cart Horse. However there were other names too, particularly the Lincolnshire – which in New Zealand was sometimes known simply as the Lincoln.

For the researcher, there is still a bit of a problem. If we find an historical reference to a Black Horse, can we be sure that this isn't just a description of its colour? For instance, on the front page of the Auckland newspaper, the Daily Southern Cross for 16 September 1843, there is reference to the 'celebrated Black Horse "Lucifer."' Does the word 'black' as used in this context refer to the colour or the breed? I've looked at a number of advertisements published around this time but it's difficult to be sure one way or the other.

There is less ambiguity with the other early name, English Cart Horse, which also appears here in the 1840s. The advertisement reproduced on the right is from the Daily Southern Cross of 26 December 1855.

"ORWELL,"
The Entire English Cart Horse for Sale.

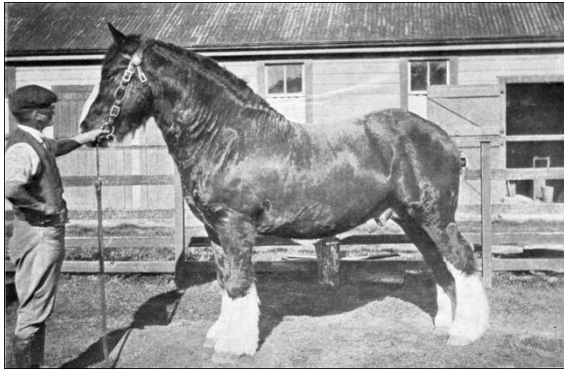
 **CAN** be seen at Messrs William-
son & Crummer's until 1st
January 1856.
Particulars to be obtained of
Mr. McGauran, Newmarket, or
WILLIAMS, HINCKLEY, & Co.
Auckland, 24th December, 1855.

And although the name Shire was being used in NZ at least as early as 1892, it is interesting that both Lincolnshire and Lincoln were still in use as late as 1905.

So when can we say the first Shire horses arrived in NZ? Was it in the 1890s when they began to be referred to by that name, or was it much earlier in the 1840s and 50s when they were being called something else? I suppose to some extent it depends on exactly what we mean by the term 'breed.'

And I imagine the situation was much the same in Australia, with usage of the name not becoming common until early in the twentieth century.

In 1901 the NZ Department of Agriculture made two Shire stallions available at stud with view to improving farm draught horses – one in the South Island and one in the North. These two stallions, named Danger Signal and Hertfordshire Boy, had been presented to the country by the well-known English breeder, Lord Rothchild, and other imports soon followed. To some extent the use of the stallions was being encouraged because of departmental officers' reports of the widespread use of inferior draught animals. The stallion shown here is Menestrel Royal Harold, 2 years old, at the Department's Moutmahaki Experimental Farm.



An interesting comment was made in the Department's 1908 Annual Report to the effect that while light draught horses being bred at that time were suitable for farm work, a heavier animal was required for cartage in the city. I would have thought that at least for some farm work, such as ploughing, the heavier animal would have been advantageous.

However, in a 1938 publication, *The Breeding and Management of Live Stock*,

author A. W. G. Lipscomb, of the Department of Agriculture in NSW, noted that "So far as can be ascertained, there are no Shire horses in NZ, although they are used to some extent in Australia. For average farm work in NZ, Shires are considered a trifle too heavy, and being less active, are not so well suited to walking on soft soil and uneven country."

After WWII the place of draught horses was largely taken over by tractors and trucks. although some Shire blood may have survived, probably diluted, it was not until the end of the 20th century that the breed became re-established in NZ with importations like Ruskington Harvester, some of whose progeny now thrive on both sides of the Tasman.

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Stud listings on SHSA website

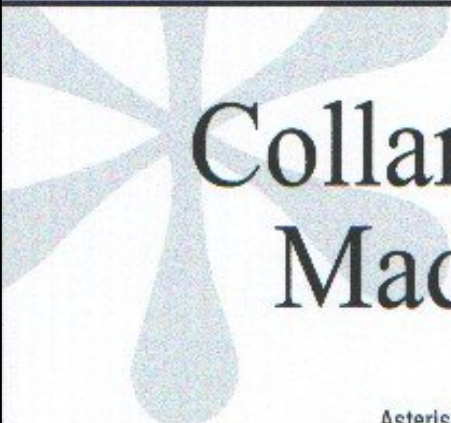
The SHSA website gets a lot of traffic and many inquiries from people interested in buying Shires, looking for stallions or meeting other Shire Horse enthusiasts.

The Stud pages hold about five photos or images, a stud logo, a full A4 page of text and your contact details. Each stud has its own click through link for enquires, going directly to your email address.

The annual \$200 fee (plus GST) covers all set up costs, minor changes throughout the year, and an annual revamp of your content and images if requested.

If you already have a website, for \$75 you can have a paragraph and a link through to a Shire related site.

To place your page, contact Andrew Gunter, 07 5599-4463 or andrewg@ita.com.au



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Ed: **Membership.** SHSA welcomes new members for both full and associate membership. Please go to www.shirehorsesociety.com.au and download an application form if you know anyone who wants to join.