

## PROFILE ALLAN LONGMAN

Allan spent his childhood and early adult years on a farm where horses were the main source of power and transport. His waking hours were largely taken up with mustering, droving and teamstering. Later in the early seventies with a young family that showed a keen interest in ponies and riding, Allan made a decision to breed his own ponies and after quite a bit of investigation he became convinced that the pony with all the attributes he desired was the Connemara.

In 1973 Allan learned that the highly respected Welsh breeder, Mrs Margaret Campbell, was going to England on a pony buying expedition.. He sought her help to find a Connemara colt with the result being the purchase of Errislannon Spartan from Anne Hammond of Millfields Stud. This was the beginning of the Kemill Hill Connemara Stud.

Whilst initially going into Connemaras with a long term breeding up program in mind, Allan now felt he needed to purchase a purebred mare. Having established a contact with Anne Hammond he again negotiated with her to purchase a mare she considered suitable to mate with Spartan. The result was the purchase of Knock Ina, one of the last daughters of Carna Bobby. Knock Ina was put in foal to Wisbridge Erinmore before leaving England and produced a healthy filly foal after arriving in Western Australia. These 3 purebreds form the nucleus of the stud as it is today. The Kemill Hill Stud tasted its first success at the 1976 Perth Royal Show when Knock Ina was judged Champion mare and Spartan Champion Stallion and Supreme Champion Connemara against some stiff competition.

Allan's knowledge of Connemaras was greatly boosted in 1978 when he went to stay with Anne Hammond and ride at her Millfield's Riding Centre in Newmarket. With Anne, Allan visited a number of Connemara breeders in the East Anglia region which provided a great opportunity to view the various types and bloodlines. At the -weekends he assisted in showing the Millfields Connemaras in hand or accompanied Anne when she was judging at some of the larger shows like Essex and Stoneleigh. At these shows he was able to sit ringside during the judging. Allan would take notes and later discuss with Anne why certain ponies had been placed or not.

After 3 months at Millfields, Allan accompanied Anne to Ireland, where thanks to her standing amongst the Irish breeders, he was accepted into their Circle. He met and spent quite a period in conversation and learning from breeders such as John Daly, Lady Anne Hemphill, Steph Brookes, Jimmy Jones and Michael Higgins. He travelled through Connemara with the trip culminating at Clifden Show. He was able to visit a number of studs and further develop his "eye" for a Connemara pony.

Early in the 1980's Allan was appointed an APSB judge and judged fairly extensively in WA at the larger metro and country shows such as Moora, Northam, Busselton, Wanneroo and Gidgegannup. He was also accepted as a judge for a number of other breeds with one of the highlights being able to judge 2 National Andalusion Championships. In the mid 1980's Allan was appointed an inspector for the CPBSA, a position he still holds today. In the late eighties he became WA State Representative for the Society and again did another stint in this position until 2004.

Allan's breeding efforts have been relatively small scale, especially in more recent years, but have been quite successful producing pure and partbreds that have performed successfully in hand, under saddle and in harness. During the 1980's the Connemaras were the backbone of the riding school Allan ran in Parkerville. During this time he also became very involved with the Riding for the Disabled Association becoming an Examiner of instructors and State President. Allan gave freely of his time to RDA and riding school lessons were regularly given over to disabled riders with the Kemill Hill Connemaras winning the respect and admiration of many.

The last of the foals from the original ponies, Spartan and Knock Ina, is the stallion Kemill Hill Halligan -who Allan currently stands at stud, in later years Allan's interest turned from riding to harness competition and he has enjoyed considerable success with Halligan in driven dressage and combined driving competition. Clearly after 33 years Allan is still involved in breeding, showing and promoting the Connemara pony, and is as passionate as ever about the breed and preserving it for the future.