

FLYING THE CONNEMARA FLAG
By Christine Churchill

On 17th March 2002 Ken Faulkner's Australian Natural Horsemanship Study Centre at Esk in Queensland held its first Natural Horse Show.

The events held were a Dressage Competition to be ridden bridleless with a string in the horse mouth. A Cross-Country to be ridden in a string halter and a Barrel Race ridden with string round horse neck.

There was a lot of interest with over 20 entries in each event and a crowd of 200 enthusiastic spectators who were also treated to a display of Natural Horsemanship by a group of children who had travelled with their horses from Byron Bay in NSW.

To their delighted astonishment the purebred Connemara mare Binnowie Cailin (1530) and her human Christine Churchill with a score of 66.87% won the dressage competition. They are both level 2 PNH graduates, now studying level 3.

This was a fantastic day on which as usual Christine kept having to answer the usual question "What is she?" As Cailin is 14.3hh and looks bigger she attracts a lot of attention from a wide section of the community. So far she has tackled Endurance, Show Jumping & Cross-Country and Dressage enjoys just going out for rides (because she can go visiting and sticky beak) and is especially good at accompanying young horses as she is so good in traffic.

Wherever she goes the same thing happens and she gathers admirers and the plain curious. She is the epitome of the expression "head like a duchess, backside like a cook"

Cailin has certainly done her bit of flying the Connemara flag.