

# Domo Cavallo Praize

## 1975 -

In early 1976 as new and enthusiastic Connemara breeders, we went to visit Max Stollznow at Domo Cavallo Stud situated at Kurrajong Heights in the Blue Mountains. At the time we were looking for fillies to be the foundation mares for our breeding program. Having purchased two mares in the UK who were to come out to Australia in foal later that year, we hoped that one may produce a colt of stallion quality to be our foundation sire. When we arrived to see Max's 2 weanlings, the filly wasn't quite what I was looking for but the 8 month old colt took my eye. I spent that night thinking about this beautiful colt and we finally rang Max the following morning and agreed to buy him. When our 2 mares had lovely colt foals by English stallions in 1977 we had fallen in love with Praize and so they were sold on to other breeders. Both of these ponies, Glenormiston McInnerney Muskerry and Glenormiston O'Neill Clanaboy, went on to be successful stallions.

That is how Domo Cavallo Praize came into our lives. Quite unplanned and one of the best decisions we ever made.

Praize went to his first show soon after arriving with us. He was 13 months old and won the Champion Connemara Stallion or Colt at the Toowoomba Spring Show beating many older stallions. We were elated but this was to be just a start to his successful career. He was extremely successful in the show ring winning Connemara Championships at Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne Royals and in 1981 he was Supreme Champion All Breeds Stallion at the APSB show and the following day he won the Supreme Champion All Breeds Pony under saddle. Praize won too many Championships over the years to keep tabs on.

Praize would happily go in pairs with a gelding or another stallion provided it wasn't one of our own stallions (who he considered rivals) He was a super all rounder and also won several Championships in Harness. Often at shows, he would compete in the led class, the ridden class. Harness classes and the showjumping. He is registered as an Australian Stock Horse, and an Australian Saddle Pony and he would often compete in these classes as well.

Praize was the first pony I had broken in and it just happened gradually as I spent time with him. Before we knew it he was out competing and I had many happy times riding him. When he was about 5, John Robertson asked to ride him at a One Day Event and soon became his permanent jockey, competing on him all over Queensland and NSW in eventing, dressage and showjumping. Although only 14.1 ½, Praize always looked bigger and we managed to register him at 14.2 with the EFA which opened many doors in the competition world. Praize at one stage placed in the first 3 at 12 consecutive ODE's, at Restricted Novice and Novice level winning 4 of them

At home, he was the general all purpose pony – used by me to round up the mares (his favourite job) and, unbeknown to us at the time, the children all rode him regularly without a saddle or bridle by calling him over to a fence and then jumping on and

asking him to canter up to the end of the paddock. He would stop and they'd then ask him to canter back!!! He was always totally reliable and trustworthy around children and has the sweetest nature one could ever wish for. This wonderful temperament has been passed on to his progeny. Twice when our children's own horses were lame, they rode him in Interschool competitions (back in the days when it was allowed to ride a stallion in Interschool competitions) and he went happily alongside 3 other horses in the parade. I often drove in the sulky to the local store although we had one hairy moment when a dog suddenly jumped out and he took off down the road. I stopped him by driving him into a hedge. Fortunately it never happened again and our 15 km round trips were generally quiet and uneventful!

Praize has had many successful offspring – both pure and partbred – and has left a legacy of good mares and fillies in this country. We still have a number of his daughters and granddaughters here at Glenormiston. His only 3 stallion sons have gone, one was gelded due to his owners moving to town, one was exported to the USA and one to NZ. He has 2 mares in foal again this year and we have semen frozen for future use so hopefully there will eventually be a son in Australia to carry on this wonderful line. He has 3 gelding sons who have been exported to the USA, two purebred and one out of a TB mare and also a gelding son in Japan. He also has 4 purebred daughters in the US (Glenormiston Amelia, Glenormiston Clonmel, Glenormiston Diamond Lil and Glenormiston Inisheer) as well as his stallion son Glenormiston Cuchulainn.

Praize turned 30 on the 28th August but obviously noone has told him as he still thinks he is the handsome young man who can win over all the beautiful women– and amazingly they all agree!! He has a charisma that is rare and all our mares prefer him to the other stallions.

To us, he is a true friend and gentleman and will remain the 'King of Glenormiston' forever.