

Hello again from Tassie, life's been pretty hectic with the Connies down, down under so I thought it was about time to update on the Tasmanian Connemara Social scene so for a bit of fun, I thought I would do it from a horse perspective

Letter from Springfield Eryleen, Just thought I would pop a quick line to my Connie human enthusiasts, just to let you know how we delightful ponies are amusing our owners down here in Tassie!

Speaking for myself, I enjoyed a simply awesome time socialising at the shows and Pony Club events with my dedicated rider (and personal groom) Jessica Pyke. At the beginning of 2004 we romped home 3rd in the P.C.A.T. State Grade 3 Horse Trials, finishing on my amazing Dressage score of 36% (mind you, I took a fancy to the Roses at the dressage arena entrance, they looked pretty tasty to me!) My social calendar then saw me strutting my stuff at the P.C.A.T. State Dressage Championships where I finished 9th overall with an average 66% for my tests, as well as combining with a few friends to take out the Group Dressage test, I was then a member of the team that took out 2nd place overall at the Championships. Not satisfied with this effort my rider dragged me out again the very next day to the P.C.A.T. State Showjumping Championships, where I was on my best behaviour and took out 4th place in showjumping equitation and 4th place in the individual showjumping championship, with one of my Connie social pals "Midori on Ice" (with her equally dedicated young rider Hayley McCarthy) taking out 3rd place in the Championship, rather tickled with two Connies being such stars! I was a member of the team that won the overall showjumping championship trophy and we also won the 'Barwidgee Snowdown' trophy for the highest placed team overall at the Dressage and Showjumping Championships. Talk about keeping up appearances, my team and I then helped my rider's school take out 2nd place in the Inter-schools O.D.E. and then 4th place with our pony club team in State Games, these are much more to my liking, as one can be a little less reserved in our behaviour during the excitement of games. Trying out for the National Prince Phillip Games team was great fun, especially when the unsuspecting riders had to vault onto me at speed, only to find that the lure of the rich spring grass became too much for me and I stopped for a quick snack! Wintertime saw me putting my feet up for a bit of a rest, mind you I kept myself busy by destroying a couple of rugs and also escaping out of the gate for a bit of a jaunt down the road one day.

Springtime arrived with yet another hectic round of engagements, first up Zone Showjumping Championships where I won Equitation for the second year running and then a rather admirable appearance at the ROYAL Launceston Show where I assisted my rider to win Reserve Champion Pony Club /School Rider as well as winning Pony Club team. Due to excelling myself in eventing, I upgraded to Grade 2 where I won my first unofficial event. Spring is never a fashionable time for us Connies, what with shedding white hair over our riders and anyone else in proximity, however it is marvellous what a bit of shampoo, hair products and make-up can do for a girl's looks when competing in saddle classes, which we did very successfully picking up a Champion and Reserve Galloway titles along the way. I always consider showjumping rather good fun and at the Westbury and Longford Shows out of five events in open grades, I won four and placed third including winning an Open Encouragement Championship from a field of 40 horses (those thoroughbreds might think they are fast, but they can't turn a corner like a Connemara).

Deciding to have a bit of a well earned rest, I feigned a leg injury to which my sympathetic vet agreed I should have an all expenses paid holiday in the paddock until fully recovered. My rider naturally is disappointed that we are missing the eventing season, however she adores me and knows it is in my best interests. I am however, making good use of my time showing the young Connie sport horse gelding Hill N' Dale Sundancer the ropes, he is showing a lot of potential, but he is quite naïve and really does need to know his place on the pecking order. I do hope you enjoy the photos, Cheers for now Springfield Eryleen.