

## **TRIBUTE TO A CELEBRATED PONY Vale Southern Cross 1093 (Imp)**

Born June 1976

In June this year, a special anniversary will take place at the Wychwood Connemara Stud with the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Vale Southern Cross.

Wychwood was the first Connemara Stud to be established in South Australia by Mrs Sue McTaggart in 1974. Vale Southern Cross was bred by Ann Hammond in England and was imported to Australia by Sue as a yearling filly.

By Millfields Commodore from Starlight she features the blue line on both sides of her pedigree and strongly through her sire tracing back to Rebel, Lavalley Rebel and Gil. Her dam carries a strong representation of the red line tracing to Connemara Boy, Dun Heath and Dun Lorenzo.

Stroppy, as she is affectionately known, was extremely successful in the show ring with numerous wins including Champion of the Pony Breeders and Fanciers Show and of the Stud Pony Show.

She has produced one lovely filly and two colts: Wychwood Jenny Wren (dec); Wychwood Paddy Maginnis (141) (Victoria) and Wychwood Willy Wagtail (170) who has been retained by Sue and is the registered Connemara Stallion standing at Wychwood. All three progeny were sired by the wonderful Coomel Kestrel, a grandson of Thunderbolt, and with this combination the rarer green line was introduced to the Stud.

Stroppy is still in good health and runs with a small band of mares on large acreage at the Stud which is now located in the North West pastoral district of South Australia on Moonaree and Wartaka stations.

Wychwood Willy Wagtail has sired some lovely pure and part bred young stock from Lagoonside Divinity (1500) and Lambrae Pollyanna (registered Shetland) together with part bred thoroughbred stock and in the future a partbred from the registered Arabian Jahahn Izadorah. The quality of this stock, particularly the purebreds from Lagoonside Divinity (a grand daughter of Ardan), will ensure his dam's legacy continue well into the future.

Happy 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday Stroppy!

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April 2006

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