

**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**CONNEMARA PONY BREEDERS SOCIETY AUSTRALIA INC.**  
**YEAR 2002 – 2003.**

The 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual report of the Connemara Pony Breeders Society Australia Inc. for the year 2002 – 2003 is not one to enthuse about. The year has been one of frustration for the Committee in trying to maintain the momentum of the organization whilst being severely curtailed by the current Insurance fiasco that has and is restricting a vast number of Equine organizations throughout Australia.

Last year members and Committee agreed to curtail operations in performance areas due to the unavailability of Public Liability cover for events. The only Policy on offer was well beyond the financial boundaries of the Society and members, without a huge increase in membership fees and, more importantly, the policy was offered by a provider that was not with a guaranteed financial basis and was based off shore.

Committee worked hard throughout the year to find a suitable policy. A considerable number of avenues have been explored without any success. Members have been contacted recently in an effort to determine your thoughts and how you would like the Committee to move for this year. On behalf of the Committee I thank those of you who took the time to respond to this request.

At time of writing this report the EFA has forwarded a new Policy, which it has taken out with the Australian Brokers AON. The Policy offered is a combination policy of Public Liability, Association and Volunteer cover. The Cost factors have decreased and the EFA has provided a system under which the smaller groups, with less activities, Members and Action days pay a smaller fee that those with bigger systems. The Policy cost is, I think, accessible by the Society and members. It is hoped that at the tabling of this report Committee can announce a positive movement towards accepting this policy and with it a return to normal Activities for the Action groups and members.

Reports from owners and breeder and from the Newsletters articles indicate that, in spite of the Insurance problems, it is obvious that the Connemara Pony in some areas of our Country has been very active in all areas of performance. There are too many wonderful ponies that have been raising the flag and winning in open company to name them all in this report, suffice to say from the Society, well done! We appreciate your efforts in the promotion of the Connemara Pony. It indeed a shame that the Insurance problem and the virtual shut down of many Breed groups and breed shows has prevented some owners and breeders from competing in a number of States.

A number of issues affecting the Connemara Pony Worldwide were presented and discussed at the Clifden meeting of the ICCPS in August. The minutes of this meeting are not available as a correct record of the meeting but Sue Clarke, the Australian delegate, will present her report from Clifden at this meeting. It is obvious that height and Type problems with the breed worldwide will have to be recognized and addressed by the Council of the CPBS if the Connemara Pony worldwide is to be contained within the standard of Excellence as set by the CPBS.

Other issues on Conception and Incest rules, the Blue Eyed cream breeding, the data Base usage harmonization of Documentation, Veterinarian Inspections and Pony Inspections are all being addressed world wide. By far the most important documentation to be released shortly will be the outcome of the Genetic Characteristic Study. A program sponsored by the CPBS in conjunction with the Data base program. This program was the responsibility of a Dublin Graduate who will present it for her Doctorate in Genetics in November this year. In essence the program ha shown that the Connemara Pony is being in bred with ponies being bred well over height and away from type!!

Membership has continued to be stable and there have been 14 new membership applications this year. The Society has a membership of 140 at the close of the 2003-year.

The financial situation of the Society is reasonable and the Committee must in the coming year, given that a suitable Insurance Policy will be available, take steps to upgrade the Promotion of the Pony throughout the Nation. Members will be asked to help the Committee in this respect by presenting their ideas on means of achieving a greater awareness of our Ponies. With this promotion will also be a program to bring some members back into the Society.

Pony registrations have continued to be sound with 62 ponies being registered – this figure is made up of 33 fillies and 29 colts. 3 stallions were inspected and passed.

A.J. Tennant  
Chair CPBSA