

Paul Dunstan.

I have been showing horses and ponies from a very young age. I was a member of the WP&CS since it started in Australia, and the Riding Pony Society from the early 80's.

I was married to Peter Barry's daughter Anne, and I was involved with many of the early imported Riding ponies; Solway Magnolia, Solway Springtime, Ashlands Cover Girl, Fairley Simon and later Keston Royal Occasion.

A few years after Anne died I started dating Kerry, who was also heavily involved in Riding Ponies with Malibu Park Stud.

We have been showing and breeding riding ponies together for the past 30 years. We have travelled to the UK several times visiting studs and shows, and have imported 3 riding ponies from the UK in recent years, including the stunning Llanarth Topcat.

We attend many shows during the show season, showing in-hand and ridden riding ponies. It is sad to see the lack of riding ponies being shown in the riding pony rings. I feel this is one aspect that needs addressing. As Kerry was a committee member for 11 years and a Federal Delegate for 6 years, back in the day when the society was at an all-time high, I was aware of what was going on in the RP society. Over the years, many of the incentives and schemes introduced by previous committees have been allowed to fall by the way side, or dismantled so they are no longer relevant. Whilst this has been happening there have not been any new incentives to replace them.

I feel it is time for new ideas and to revitalise the Riding Pony society to what it once was.