

## Society Landmarks

1972

Formation of the *Association for the Preservation Development of the Eriskay Pony* founded in Lochboisdale by a group headed by Fr Calum MacNeill, parish priest in Eriskay; Robert Beck, a vet from Tiree; Dr Alastair Fraser, of Lewis. The ogham symbol for E was chosen to represent 'each Èirisgeidh eilean' (horse, Eriskay, island).

1973

A pure Eriskay Pony stallion is located on South Uist and bought by the Association for pure breeding.

1978

The Association changes its name to Comann Each nan Eilean – the Eriskay Pony Society .

1982

Last non-pure stallion used in CEnE breeding; all ponies now to be sired by a 100% original Eriskay stock stallions.

1985

First volume of the Register closed.

1986

The formation of a separate society on the mainland for the promotion of the breed.

1988

The Eriskay Pony Class at South Uist and Benbecula Agricultural Show is created, with the Robert Beck Cup for best Eriskay Pony.

1992

The definitive book on the Eriskay Pony breed is published, *Scotland's Native Horse* by Robert Beck.

1995

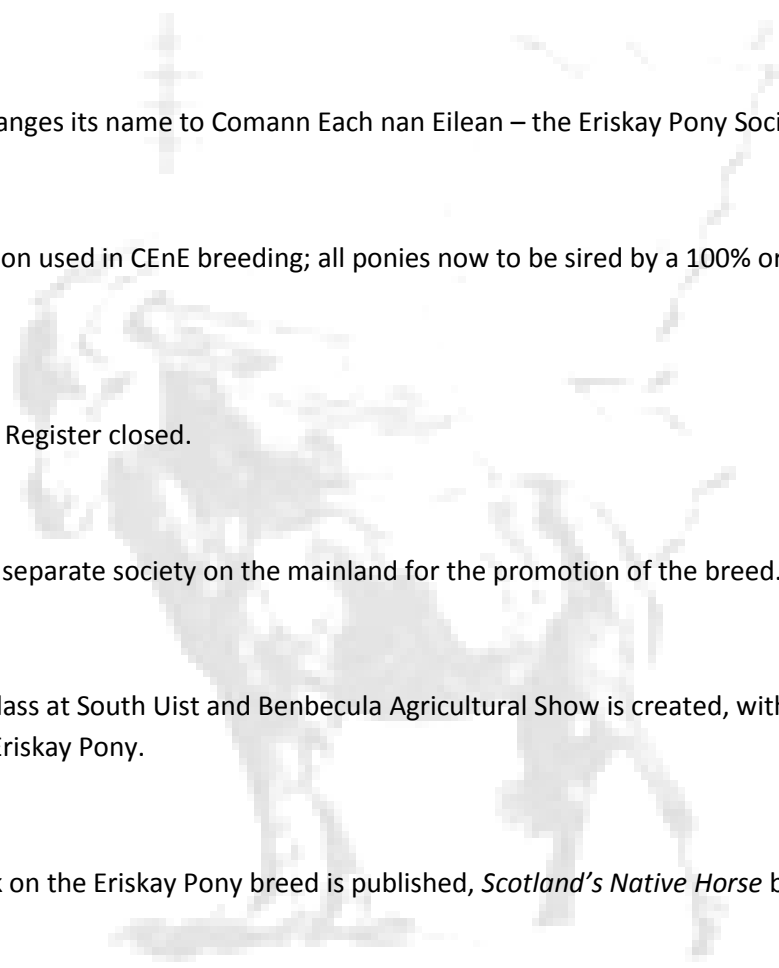
Pure breeding returns to the islands.

1996

The Society reaffirms its commitment to be based in the islands, with the addition of the Friend of Society category for non-islanders. The new logo is adopted.

1997

Silver Jubilee Exhibition in Talla Choimhearsnachd Èirisgeidh.



1998

HRH Prince Charles, becomes Patron of Comann Each nan Eilean.

2000

The 'Sale of Ponies' seminar is held in Lochboisdale. A company is formed as the Society's legal personality and business arm with charity status. Dr Alasdair Fraser, the Society's motivator, dies in Lewis.

2002

The Eriskay Pony is recognised by the European Commission, and an important acknowledgment that pony characteristics change when they are removed from their native islands.

Three officer-bearers are funded to visit Poland and Connemara, Ireland, to learn about native equine breed conservation. A Polish professor also visits Uist to give a talk about conserving the breed in its natural habitat.

2003

Comann Each nan Eilean Studbook Register 1972-1985 confirmed as the Studbook of Origin of the Eriskay Pony breed. The Honorary President, Canon Calum MacNeill, passes.

2004

Robert Beck, the co-founder, becomes the new President.

2010

Two delegates of the Society meet Dr Alf-Eckbert Füssel, of the European Commission. The Pure Studbook is compiled and the principles and rules are sent to the Regulatory Authority. The *Seòrsa Gàidheal* (Gael Type) pony is trademarked for those members' ponies which are bred, born and reared in the Outer Hebrides.

2011

Purebred mares are dispersed to island locations, and purebreeding takes place at Palacerigg Park & Stratheaven Rare Breeds Centre.

2012

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner in Lochboisdale Hotel. Fr Calum MacLellan, the Honorary Secretary from Eriskay, passes.