

AUSTRALIAN
Carriage Driving
JOURNAL

VOL 48 ISSUE 154 DECEMBER 2017



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CONTENTS	
President's Report	2
Horse Registration & CDE Grading Lists	2
Notes from Federal Council 21 October 2017	2
ACDS Child Safe Code of Conduct	3
Back in the 80s	4
2018 AGM & Conference	5
Kohnke's Own Seasonal Alert - Strangles Outbreak	6
The German Training Scale - Part 3 - Acceptance of the Bit	7
More - Peter Mac's Recollections	10
ACDS Horse Registration Process	11
Show Driving	12
The ACDS Needs You!	12
Cootamundra Venue Proves Popular Success!	13
Combined Driving - Plan Ahead	14
What's the Penalty?	15
Pleasure & Endurance	16
Liverpool Range Harness Club Charity Drive	17
Club News from New South Wales	18
Marathon Action at Witwood - photos by Linda Mace	19
Club News from Queensland	28
Club News from Tasmania	29
Club News from Victoria	30
Skye Park Australian Carriage Driving Classic - Longwood	34
Club News from Western Australia	36
ACDS Office Bearers Contact Directory	38
ACDS Branch Club Secretaries 2017 -2018	40



Left: Mandy Lawrence.
Inset, from top:
Tracey Tuohy,
Ben Rosetta,
Yvonne Brown.

Canberra Club Level 3 CDE at Cootamundra



Sarah Keevers

Pam Salter

Photos by Ken Houlahan

Main photo: Val Woolley.
Inset: Maakie van Dam



THE CONTACT LISTS are in this Journal. Please check that your contact details are correct and if not advise the Secretary very politely. We all take the lists for granted but they represent hours of work and cross-checking for Sue and Chris, and every effort is made to get them right.

This issue demonstrates just how busy many drivers have been lately and the exciting action has been captured for

us by Ken Houlahan, Tony James and Linda Mace. I was very surprised when Linda's name came up because I haven't seen her for years. It is a delight to present her super photos of the Witwood action and a pleasure to exchange emails about old times. It is a complete coincidence that the photo of Jack Rea accompanying Peter Mc's article is also by Linda. Her story is on page 4.

Thankyou Linda for bringing the action and colour to our pages. From an editor's point of view I would like to say we appreciate seeing bright colours on the marathon. Many drivers and grooms look terrific but some don't try very hard at all. You are going to be photographed somewhere on the marathon so please make an effort to present a colourful picture.

Seasons Greetings to all.

Sincerely, Judy Dwyer

"I know the horse's name was Gidget but I can't recall the driver's name. Someone did tell me once - I only met him on that day and he needed a groom/navigator so I offered to help out in between photographing the event." Cooma Monaro Harness Event, Homeleigh, Bunyan, 1985 - Linda Mace groom. Subsequent enquiries have revealed that the driver is Lindsay Harrison. Photo: Wendy Shanley.



Federal Officials List

The Federal Officials lists are updated onto the Federal Website monthly. If you hold an ACDS Accreditation, could you please check your contact details are correct on these lists. If not correct, please contact Val Blows - val_blow@bigpond.com

Front Cover: Amy Woodfield & Midnight Secret competing at Witwood.

The AUSTRALIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING JOURNAL is produced quarterly.

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Dear Members,

ACDS FEDERAL COUNCIL adopted the Child Safe Code of Conduct (see page 3) at our meeting on 21st October, following an extended period of consultation with members and other relevant parties. The Code forms part of the ACDS’ response to various legislative obligations, but most importantly it establishes clearly the expectations placed upon members with respect to Child Safety.

I would ask all members to read and consider the Code - not to see it as yet more ‘red tape’, but rather as an important statement on the part of the organisation that we have zero tolerance for any form of abuse.

Also regarding young people in the organisation, but perhaps in a more positive sense, Federal Council has been actively pursuing opportunities to provide practical support for junior drivers. Recently some modest financial assistance was provided to three young drivers who undertook lessons with Boyd Exell, and we are investigating ways to support and encourage other young drivers in their endeavours.

A topic frequently raised with me during my discussions with members (and it is an important focus for Federal Council) is what the ACDS should be doing to promote driving and grow membership. Whilst this is very important for the future of the organisation, it has occurred to me that we mustn’t overlook what we **should not** do;

The quickest way to drive people away from carriage driving is to give the impression that the organisation is not run in a professional manner, or that the sport is unfair.

We all as members need to make sure we are creating a welcoming environment within the Society, but those of us who are Office Bearers and Officials, have a particular added responsibility;

As Office Bearers, (whether it be at Club, State or Federal level) we have a responsibility to act in the best interests of the organisation as a whole when making decisions. We also have a duty to conduct ourselves in a manner which reflects well on the organisation, so that means adhering to the Rules and Regulations, conducting meetings in a professional manner according to recognised procedures, complying with financial and reporting obligations, and generally being fair and impartial.

As Officials, we have an obligation to uphold the relevant Rules, to be

ethical, fair and impartial in our dealings with participants, and be conscious of how our behaviour and conduct is viewed.

This includes recognising when we may have a conflict of interest, and taking appropriate steps to resolve that issue.

Even with the best of intentions, we should never seek to (mis)use the systems and procedures in place in the ACDS such as Risk Management, Codes of Conduct, Rules etc to pursue a personal agenda, or to advance a particular view to the exclusion of all others. Those systems and procedures are there to facilitate activities, not to be used as a means of preventing them.

The best test of whether or not our conduct is appropriate is to ask ourselves if we would accept that behaviour in someone else....

My comments are not intended as a criticism of any individual or particular situation, more as a general and gentle reminder that the standard we get is the standard we set.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and families a safe and enjoyable festive season, and to sincerely thank all those who have contributed their time, energy, enthusiasm and skills to the ACDS during 2017 – particularly our Officials and Office Bearers, without whom there would be no Society or sport to enjoy.

Brendan Dwyer

Horse Registration and CDE Grading Lists

We would like to ask members with ACDS-registered equines to review the ACDS Horse Registration / CDE Grading Lists located on the Federal website and advise the Federal Horse Registrar of any corrections/changes regarding their own horses/ponies.

There are over 3,000 horse/ponies on the list, but many may have changed ownership, retired or be deceased.

The lists are located on the Federal website under Publications (then scroll down to Combined Driving Grading). There are 3 list options, either by registration number, by horse/pony name or by grade - choose whichever is easiest for you to follow.

The ACDS Horse Registrar & Grading Officer is Margie Morgan, please email on margiemorgan6@gmail.com or if you do not have internet access contact your club secretary and ask them to assist.

Your assistance in bringing the list up to date would be much appreciated.

Notes from Federal Council Meeting held on 21st October, 2017

STRATEGIC PLANNING Federal Council reviewed current status of various strategic actions underway to enhance the ACDS’ position, and possible actions to increase promotion of the sport. Promotion and Marketing Working Group continuing to investigate opportunities.

RISK MANAGEMENT Insurance information and the Risk Management Guidelines have been sent out to the Club through the State Branch Secretaries. Members/Clubs may contact the Federal Secretary for clarification on any points.

ACDS MEMBERSHIP DATABASE Transfer of data by Sumac almost finalised.

It has been ascertained that at this point it is not feasible to Federally collect the membership fees direct due to the current structure of the Society and the broad range of fees applicable across the States.

ACDS CHILD SAFE CODE OF CONDUCT Federal Council adopted the ACDS Child Safe Code of Conduct as tabled: Effective 21st October, 2017. The Code shall be incorporated as Schedule E in the Federal By-laws and to be made available on the Federal Website and circulated to the State Branches.

CDE PUBLICATIONS: Federal Council adopted the following publications effective 21.10.17:

- CDE Organisation Guidelines 9th Edition (Version: 2017-V9.1)
- Technical Delegate Manual, Course Designer’s Manual and Cones Judge Manual – Version: 2017-V4-2

ACDS AUSTRALIAN SHOW DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIP ROTA The Australian Show Driving Championship Rota as tabled was adopted:

2018	NSW
2019	SA
2020	QLD
2021	VIC
2022	TAS
2023	WA
2024	NSW

The Rota to be included in the ACDS Federal By-Laws as By-law 7.4.

2019 AUSTRALIAN CDE CHAMPIONSHIPS The WA State Branch has advised the State is able to host the 2019 Australian CDE Championships.

2015 ACDS CDE RULE BOOK Revision of the 2015 ACDS CDE Rule Book has commenced. Currently a survey is being undertaken with a view to gaining members’ feed back.

2018 FEDERAL AGM & CONFERENCE Federal Council accepted the Expression of Interest submitted by the SA State Branch. The Annual General Meeting and Conference to take place at Handorf SA on the 13th and 14th July, 2018.

2017-2018 FEDERAL P&E CONVENOR Federal Council ratified the appointment of Peter Honeyman as the Federal P&E Convenor for 2017-2018.

ACDS FEDERAL WEBSITE The Federal ACDS Website is currently being looked at by an IT specialist to determine upgrade options. The Website Co-ordinator and Federal President are investigating other organisation’s websites/hosts in order to achieve an update of the ACDS Website.



Australian Carriage Driving Society

Child Safe Code of Conduct

©ACDS Adopted by Federal Council: 21/10/2017

THIS CODE OF CONDUCT outlines appropriate standards of behaviour by adults towards children and vulnerable persons.

The Code of Conduct aims to protect children and vulnerable persons and reduce any opportunities for abuse or harm to occur. It also helps members by providing them with guidance on how to best support children / vulnerable persons and how to avoid or better manage difficult situations. This Code of Conduct applies to all people involved in Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS) activities, including participants, coaches, officials, volunteers and parents.

All ACDS Members are responsible for promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable persons by:

- Adhering to this Code of Conduct and other relevant ACDS policies.
- Taking all reasonable steps to protect children and vulnerable persons from abuse and to keep them safe from harm.
- Treating everyone with respect, including listening to and valuing their ideas and opinions.
- Welcoming all children / vulnerable persons and their families and carers and being inclusive.
- Respecting cultural, religious and political differences and acting in a culturally sensitive way, particularly when interacting with children who are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or otherwise culturally or linguistically diverse and those with a disability.
- Modelling appropriate adult behaviour.
- Listening to children and vulnerable persons and responding to them appropriately.
- Reporting and acting on any breaches of this Code of Conduct, complaints or concerns appropriately and treating them seriously and with respect.
- Working with children / vulnerable persons in an open and transparent way – other adults should always know about the work you are doing in this respect.
- Respecting children / vulnerable persons and their families, and only disclosing information to people who have a need to know.

ACDS Members **MUST NOT:**

- Seek to use children / vulnerable persons in any way to meet the inappropriate needs of adults.
- Ignore or disregard any concerns, suspicions or disclosures of abuse.
- Use prejudice, oppressive behaviour or language with children / vulnerable persons.
- Discriminate on the basis of age (except as provided for in the Sport Rules), gender, race, culture, vulnerability or sexuality.
- Initiate unnecessary physical contact with children / vulnerable persons or do things of a personal nature that they can do for themselves, such as toileting or changing clothes.
- Direct inappropriate attention to children or vulnerable persons.
- Have unauthorised contact with children and vulnerable persons online or by phone, or exchange personal contact details without parent / guardian consent.

By observing these standards you acknowledge the responsibility to immediately report any suspected instances of abuse to Police and Child Protection Authorities.

Compliance with this Code is a condition of Membership of the Australian Carriage Driving Society.

Back in the 80s ...

BACK IN THE 80s I was able to do a lot of coverage of events for Hoofs and Horns because it then had a regional insert so there could be more local content which was great. As well as covering carriage driving I did all kinds of equestrian events for Hoofs and Horns, Rider magazine (front cover) and local and regional papers. That was in the days of film and darkrooms. I would spend all night in the darkroom at home to meet deadlines, write a bit of a story, add some results and go to work in the morning!

About 1985 I was at Ellmore photographing an event and as I had show riding gear to wear for presentation, I was also grooming for Merryn Emanuel (now Byers) in the dressage and cones with Jack Rea's *Gigolo* and navigating for Jack in the marathon with his very large Hackney *Scotty*. Jack passed out while we were driving along and I had to take control of *Scotty* and hang onto Jack's jacket as he was falling out down towards the wheel - scary! Fortunately he came to, said, "Get up, *Scotty*", gave him a flick with the whip and we carried on up the gully - he didn't remember that episode! I recall he had rounded hubs that he put on his sulky wheels for scraping around trees and posts without getting caught up. At one event I took a picture of Jack speeding down a hill with *Gigolo*, his navigator hanging on and her hair flying out in the slipstream! It was used as a poster advertisement for one of the championships. I covered the Australian Championships at Jondaryan, Queensland and did some publicity shots for Rod and Sue Ryan before their trip overseas. Jondaryan was a great few days. Kangaroo Valley, Kameruka, Bega, Cooma ... so many great memories from the early days of carriage driving events. I still have prints and negatives from those days stored away. Covering events is purely voluntary for me nowadays. If people want to obtain images they can contact me via Messenger (Facebook) to purchase a USB or receive up to three via email. Any income goes towards my fuel and photographic costs. I have been quite overwhelmed with the response to the Facebook posts of Witwood, not having done any driving photos since 2010 and 2011. I think the first driving event I covered



Cooma Monaro Harness Club Event, Homeleigh, Bunyan, 1985 - Linda Mace groom - Photo: Lady Anne Synnot.

would have been in 1983 when I started getting into horse event coverage in south east NSW as nobody else seemed to be covering that area. That was the year I bought my first Nikon and a couple of long lenses so I could get good quality images. The attached images are scanned from prints given to me by Lady Anne Synnot and Wendy Shanley after I was asked to groom and navigate at an event run by Cooma Monaro Harness Club at Bill Shanley's property Bunyan near Cooma. I can remember the name of the horse, *Gidget*, but not the name of the man who was driving! Anne Synnot said it was time I was in the pictures rather than taking them! There were two of my colour photos in Hoofs and Horns from that event which was an achievement because there weren't many colour pages in the magazine then.

I am not quite sure what makes my images different but people seem to like them so I will keep taking them when the opportunity arises, perhaps it's my longtime knowledge of horses and the sports I am covering along with a lifetime of owning, riding, teaching and competing. Thankyou for using my photos.

Linda Mace. Email lindzyne@bigpond.net.au

2018 ACDS AGM and Conference

Venue: Adelaide Hills Convention Centre, Hahndorf Resort

Hahndorf, South Australia

Friday 13th to Sunday 15 July 2018



SOUTHERN CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY on behalf of the South Australian Branch, will be hosting the 2018 ACDS AGM and Conference in picturesque and historic Hahndorf.

Nestled on 13 hectares of scenic manicured rolling hills and bushland, with unparalleled views of the magnificent Adelaide Hills, Adelaide Hills Convention Centre at the Hahndorf Resort feels a world away yet offers every convenience at your fingertips.

Only 20 minutes from Adelaide and within walking distance to Hahndorf's Main Street, this picturesque retreat offers the perfect location to discover Hahndorf & Adelaide Hills, enjoy the resort's many fun activities or just relax.

There is a range of accommodation options available for you including contemporary resort rooms, units, cottages and houses for groups of up to 10 people. Whether you're a couple, family or group of friends, there are rooms to suit your individual needs and budget.

The Resort also has a fully appointed caravan park. There are scenic, terraced caravan and camping sites for all vehicle types. All sites have power outlets, water, WiFi, a grassed area, and we're dog-friendly.

There will be plenty to do in your spare time when not attending the AGM or the Discipline Forums.

Settled in 1839, Hahndorf is Australia's oldest surviving German settlement. Take yourself back in time walking the main street, lined with historic buildings including the Hahndorf Academy - a magnificent heritage building housing gallery exhibitions, a small museum, artist studios and a shop featuring special Sir Hans Heysen's collections and quality hand crafted local artisan products.

'The Cedars', Hahndorf is an elegant Edwardian property that was the home of Australian landscape artist Sir Hans Heysen until his death in 1968. Visitors can see the artist's studio, a collection of his works and tour the property's elegant gardens. ACDS members attending the Conference will have the special privilege to have our own, private tour of the Cedars with the Curator.

Hahndorf is a town filled with artisan local food and wine, and caters for traditional German tastes. Dine with friends and talk to producers, then end the night with a classic German beer stein.

No trip to Hahndorf is complete without a visit to the Hahndorf Inn and the German Arms. Make sure you don't miss Prancing Pony Brewery, only 10 minutes away from Hahndorf. Also located in the main street is Udder Delights Cheese Shop. Udder Delights produces a wide range of milk and goat cow cheeses which are available for tasting plus a dizzying array of cheeses and other gourmet delights are for sale. Enjoy snacks and light meals, fondue experiences or high tea in their licensed cafe, where a raised outdoor dining area overlooks the main street.





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Kohnke's Own Seasonal Alert - Strangles Outbreak

STRANGLES, caused by the bacterium *Streptococcus equi*, is a highly contagious infectious disease of the upper respiratory tract and lymph nodes of the head, affecting horses, ponies and donkeys.

This endemic disease, which tends to favour the colder months of the year, is easily recognised through the symptoms it presents. Outbreaks generally follow the mixing of groups of horses or the introduction of new horses from an infected property. The disease is generally more common in younger horses whose clinical symptoms will be more severe due to a lack of immunity; however, horses of any age can become infected. The *Streptococcus equi* bacterium spreads from horse to horse through both the oral and nasal route, through coughing, or by eating feed or drinking water which has been contaminated by an infected horse or donkey. Contaminated grooming gear, rugs, feed bins, stable utensils, transport vehicles or handlers not practicing correct biosecurity measures can also spread the infection. *Streptococcus equi* can also survive long periods of time in the environment.

The incubation period of the disease is usually one week, but may be up to three weeks. Typical symptoms of strangles are usually displayed within 3-8 days of infection and are as follows:

- rapid on-set of high temperature (39.5°C to 40.5°C)
- loss of appetite
- symmetrical inflammation of the head and neck glands that will often form into abscesses
- discharge of thick yellow pus from the nose
- coughing
- difficult and painful swallowing

The clinical signs may persist in some horses for days to months, however, in most cases, once the affected lymph nodes have abscessed and drained, recovery is uneventful. Abscesses typically rupture and drain within two weeks and when they do burst, thick yellow puss will be discharged.

Affected horses remain infectious for at least four weeks after clinical signs have disappeared, even though they may appear healthy. However, some horses may harbour residual infection in the guttural pouch, subsequently shedding the bacteria intermittently for months afterwards.

Other, more severe complications from Strangles include:

- Bastard Strangles – Bacteria can occasionally spread through the body, causing abscesses in the lungs, liver, spleen, kidneys, brain, and lymph nodes. These cases can be fatal.
- Purpura Haemorrhagica – This condition is not common. It is normally associated with the appearance of red spots on skin and mucous membranes, caused by bleeding from smaller, sub-mucosal blood vessels. Swelling of the limbs and head may also be present. It is generally fatal despite treatment.
- Chronic Carrier Status - A small number of horses carry Strangles in the guttural pouch for months after they have recovered from the disease. Carrier horses appear healthy, but shed bacteria in nasal discharges and are the source of infection for other susceptible horses.

Swift veterinary diagnosis is important in the control and spread of the disease.

Testing for Strangles is carried out by swabbing the back of the nasal cavity (nasopharyngeal swabs) the swabs are sent to a lab to culture the *Streptococcus equi* bacteria. Definitive diagnosis of *Streptococcus equi* may take several days to culture and confirm. To obtain a positive swab, swabs must be taken before any antibacterial treatment is commenced.

Bacterial shedding will usually end rapidly after the horse's clinical recovery, but can be confirmed by negative culture of nasopharyngeal swabs. However, shedding may be intermittent and the occasional horse can become a long-term carrier. Ponies have been known to carry the infection for up to 15 months and have been confirmed as the source of infection for other horses 8 months after being infected themselves. Therefore, before any infected horse or any horse that has come into contact with an infected horse can be considered free of infection, a series of negative swabs are needed.



Treatment

IMMEDIATE VETERINARY TREATMENT should be sought in any suspected case of Strangles, and an attempt to control infection and treat the symptoms is essential. The affected horses should be kept isolated for 6 to 8 weeks in order to prevent spread to other horses and stringent biosecurity must be observed when handling infected horses.

In many cases where the disease is displayed with less severe symptoms, the best treatment is good nursing and management.

Keeping the horse comfortable and quiet until the abscesses burst, will enable it to acquire natural immunity and will generally recover without complications. To reduce the elevated temperature and painful swellings, a veterinarian may prescribe non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication. Antibiotics are not always administered or are useful, as they will not penetrate the centre of an abscess where there is no blood supply. Anti-inflammatory medications may be necessary if the horse is suffering from painful swellings of the lymph nodes and/or a high temperature.

Early treatment with antibiotics may be given in some cases, however, if antibiotics are administered prior to testing, a confirmed diagnosis may not be provided. Treating abscesses once they have burst can be carried out by washing the site with warm water and antiseptic. Complications are uncommon and most horses recover uneventfully.

Handy Hint:

IMMUNE SYSTEM SUPPORT MEDICATIONS and supplements encourage recovery from illness and injury by supporting and promoting immune function in the body. Kohnkes Own® Activ-8 has a role in normalising the immune system in horses to maintain optimum immunity and assist in the recovery from illness and injury.

Control and Prevention

INFECTION can be controlled through the isolation of infected horses for 4-8 weeks. The spread of Strangles can be limited by the early detection of 'shedders' amongst newly-infected horses on the property. All infected horses and all horses in contact, should be placed under veterinary supervision in strict isolation with the highest possible standards of hygiene.

The disease can easily be spread by careless horse handlers. Strict hygiene and biosecurity is necessary for people handling infected horses. Larger home properties, such as studs or agistment centres, may be able to allocate separate handlers to tend to infected and uninfected groups of horses. If one single person must handle both infected and uninfected horses, treatment and daily care of the uninfected horses should be attended to first. Infection free horses and their in-contacts can be diagnosed by taking three nasopharyngeal swabs over a two week period and culturing the swabs for *Streptococcus equi*. Three negative swabs provide strong evidence of freedom from infection in the great majority of cases.

All new horses coming onto a property, whether or not the horse has come from an infected area, should be monitored closely for at least two weeks after arrival, and ideally quarantined during that period. Any horse which develops a nasal discharge and has come from an infected area should be isolated and swabbed to exclude the possibility of Strangles.

Horses kept on properties in isolation from other horses are not at risk. However, horses which travel to studs, competitions or camps, visit other properties where horses are kept, or those on agistment with other horses, are at risk and a regular vaccination program for Strangles is highly recommended.

Vaccination for Strangles does not always prevent disease in individual horses. However, it can assist control by reducing the severity and duration of symptoms, as well as the spread of disease in an outbreak. An initial course of 3 injections two weeks apart is necessary with an annual booster vaccination thereafter.

Horses should be vaccinated initially as a foal, and the mare should also be regularly vaccinated during her pregnancy. For optimal protection, it is important that horses are given a full course of vaccinations and receive regular annual boosters. Horses should not be vaccinated while actively infected.

Horses which are in high risk areas or within a 200km radius of an outbreak are strongly advised to be vaccinated immediately.

Copyright by Dr John Kohnke BVSc RDA

The German TRAINING SCALE

Part 3 - Acceptance of the Bit *by Hardy Zantke*

FIRST TAKT = Rhythm and Regularity, then Losgelassenheit = Freedom which includes Relaxation.

Now we come to the third item:

Anlehnung = CONTACT which includes Acceptance of the Bit and Seeking the Contact.

There are others who have written good articles about biting and how to harness a horse properly. So I will not go into that part other than saying that naturally if we want our horse to accept the bit, we must make sure that we have chosen a proper bit that fits him well and is adjusted correctly, so a bit that the horse is comfortable with and that does the job properly. That is an all-important basis.

Unfortunately we see horses which are not bitted properly or which are uncomfortable with the bit due to some problems in the mouth, soreness for example or lack of proper equine dental work, or even other problems in their bodies. Keep in mind, it is all connected. What might seem to be a problem in the mouth can sometimes come from entirely different parts of the body, from a rib out of alignment, or even from a sore hind leg and certainly also from ill-fitting or badly adjusted and improper harnessing. So all of this needs to be corrected first with help of proper experts in the various fields. There are many good articles and books written covering those subjects.

⚠️ Far too often we are trying to solve problems by changing 'hardware' when in reality it's the 'software' that is at fault"

But let me also add a word of caution here: I think far too often we are trying to solve problems by changing 'hardware' when in reality it's the 'software' that is at fault. The "software" is our hand and our training technique, the way we drive and work with and train our horses. That's where many if not most of our faults are and if that's wrong, changing to some different bits won't correct the problem, it might temporarily change things and even might look like an improvement, but often it's only a quick fix patching over a deeper problem which will come to the surface again. But it's human nature to blame shortcomings rather not on ourselves: "Hey, I don't do anything wrong, it's not my fault, it's just the wrong bit for this horse." But like a good high tech engineer, naturally we first must make sure that our hardware is in order but then we must work constantly on trying to improve our 'software' - us! That's what this series is about and will hopefully help us a little with that.

In order to have proper contact, our horses must accept the bit. We find that requirement under the third item in the Collective Remarks in our Dressage tests. You will remember that under the first two items we had among others 'Regularity' and 'Relaxation', both items that we covered in the last two articles. So now on the third item we have Submission, where it lists under the judging criteria 'acceptance of the bit' but accepting the bit and 'submission' does not mean that our horses should be slaves, subdued by some cruel hardware in their mouth, that forces them to accept our will. But rather that they are comfortable and go willingly along with us as their leaders.

Accordingly the judging criteria also lists 'Attention and confidence' as well as 'Calmness, lightness and ease of movements' all of which cannot be there if the horse is pressed into slavery. On the International FEI tests the wording is slightly different, but really has the same meaning, as there it calls for 'Obedience and lightness - Response to aids, willing and without resistance'. The bit of course is one of our aids.

I quoted already in the last instalment Article 97 of the ADS (American Driving Society) dressage rules, where it listed under item (b)4 'The ACCEPTANCE OF THE BRIDLE, without any tenseness or RESISTANCE' and under (c) 'The horse, confident and attentive, SUBMITS GENEROUSLY to the driver..' under (e): '...is free from resistance he will obey without hesitation and respond to the various aids calmly...'. But I did not quote yet item (f): 'In all his work, even at the halt, the horse should be 'on the bit.'



'A horse is said to be 'on the bit' when the hocks are correctly placed, the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the pace, and he accepts the bridle with a light and soft contact and submissiveness throughout. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the driver.' (All emphasis added by me.) We find similar statements as to the acceptance of the bit and the light contact further throughout the ACDS CDE Rules for Dressage, and I quote only some examples now:

Article 954.1 Halt: '..The horse must stand square, straight and motionless, remaining on the bit'

Article 954.2 Walk: '...With a regular four-beat movement, the horse, remaining in light contact....'

Article 954.4 Working Trot: '...A forward, active regular trot, with the horse ON THE BIT...'

similarly under 954.5 Collected Trot: '...remains ON THE BIT' - and under 954.6 Extended trot: '...remaining ON THE BIT...'; as well as

Article 954.9 Rein Back: '...The horse must remain on the bit...' where it also says '...not evade or resist the contact...'; and

Article 954.12 Transitions states 'Changes of Pace must always be made smoothly and promptly with the horse remaining in balance and on the bit..'

The entire Article 107 of the ADS (American Driving Society) Dressage Rules explains proper submission and I have quoted most of it also already in the last chapter, except where it dealt more with the bit: 'The degree of submission is also manifested by the way the horse ACCEPTS THE BRIDLE with a light contact and a supple poll or with resistance to Or evasion of the driver's hand, being either 'above the bit' or 'behind the bit' respectively. Putting out the tongue, keeping it above the bit or drawing it up altogether. . . are mostly signs of nervousness, tenseness or resistance.' (Everything after the 'supple poll' of course being undesirable.)

So that is all fine, but how do we get there with our horse? First the bit in their mouth should become their friend, which they can and do trust, which is there for them to guide them, and on which they can count, on which they can rely, and along those lines, on which they can, careful now with this word - LEAN - a little. To slightly lean on, that's what the German word 'Anlehnung' literally translates to and that's what it means. However, in the English language that can easily be misread as leaning too much on the bit. The horse should willingly 'reach for the bit' he should not 'hang on it' and he should not stiffen any parts of his body against it. So there is a fine line, of how much 'leaning' we want to have here. And we cannot describe that in a figure of pounds or grams, because that's not really the issue.

⚠️ ...the important part is not how much weight I have in my hands there, the important part is that the horse stays supple with it..."

Some people as well as some horses like a little more contact and others less, so the important part is not how much weight I have in my hands there, the important part is that the horse stays supple with it, as we have hopefully learned from the last chapter, where we talked about freedom and relaxation. Because we see now again, this is all interrelated. If the horse becomes rigid, his muscles tight, then he is not relaxed any more, and if he then leans on the bit with a constant pressure, regardless of how much weight he then puts on the bit, it's too much, likewise of course if he resists. If on the other hand, if he stays supple, his muscles

relaxed, he is willing to give to my hand when I take a little, but is also stretching forward when I give my hand, then we are dancing properly together, then the amount of contact can even be a little more if we both are comfortable with it.

So we want to be like a couple dancing together. Yes, I am the leader in the dance, but he lets me willingly guide him and dances with me without giving me any resistance. Sorry, my younger friends for this picture, but as you can see, I'm still from those times when we had contact when dancing together. Maybe I should change the image and go to a different picture for my explanations of 'seeking the contact' as that is the next part: I want my horse to 'seek the contact' literally on the bit, but through that always to and with me also mentally. There is our mutual trust relationship.

So as I want the bit to be his friend, naturally I should not use the bit ever to punish him, as sometimes seen with sharp jerks in the mouth. That is counterproductive as it destroys the horses trust in the bit. Instead we should always try to drive with a soft and giving hand, keeping a steady elastic connection. This proper acceptance of the bit cannot be taught by putting the horse in a biting rig, but only through a sympathetic hand. A biting rig pulls the horse into an artificial frame, makes him a slave and not a dance partner. With that his body will be rigid, his muscles tight and he will be tense.

We see our elastic feel also required under Article 108 of our ADS (American Driving Society) Dressage Rules under Position and Aids of the Driver, where it requires a 'steady hand enabling a consistent 'feel' with the horse's mouth'. The horse needs to go confidently forward, rhythmical and relaxed and seek the contact to the driver's hand, as that allows him to find his balance. We cannot accomplish that by pulling him together through the reins; that is force, but not a dance together. We are not pulling from behind, but he must take the initiative and seek our contact, and stretch for that bit, but when he does, we also must give him as much contact as he needs. The main thrust for his part of the dance needs to come from behind, from his hind legs, his engine, producing some power and pushing him forward, from his hind end 'engaging'. Then we can dance.

We will talk more about that when we get to the next chapters about 'Impulsion' and later also 'Collection' as that is where we will build up more of the thrust from behind, the engagement.

But already now we need to keep in mind, that we cannot accomplish this by just pulling him together from the front. He would get rightfully confused when being pushed forward from behind and at the same time held back in front. That would be like driving a car with the handbrake on. Yet on the other hand, and this may sound like a contradiction, we do need to ask him to go forward, we need to drive him from behind, and we need to keep enough contact to balance him in front. With that he can use his hind end and we are balancing him through the reins and he will get his poll to flex properly at the highest point, but we both must stay supple. This will take time in our training process and we both must work for it.

👉👉 Beginning drivers often pride themselves on how light their horses are when in reality all they have is no contact."

Beginning drivers often pride themselves on how light their horses are when in reality all they have is no contact. The horse just walks or trots on his own, but without any engagement. So we must work for this but also not confuse the young horse with too much push from behind and holding in front either. He must develop his muscles in order to carry himself and he must learn to understand what we are trying to teach him and he must willingly cooperate. We cannot force him 'into frame' as some are trying, that will only make the horse rigid, frustrated and bring him more on the forehead instead of less.

Nevertheless, some young horses do need a little more contact to help them balancing, but even with more contact it needs to stay soft and never rigid. As they develop more and learn to 'carry' themselves, some can work with less contact and need less of our support at times, whereas others become eager and want a tighter hold as we dance to-

gether, but also with those, they must not lean on us but just seek the contact, we must keep that elastic feeling with each other.

As feelings are so hard to describe, I will give a few more pictures, hoping to explain it with that. He can seek 'contact' - the bit - my hand, as a child seeks the hand of his mother when walking through a dark forest, and when the child is a bit afraid, the mother just holds that tiny hand a little tighter, with a little bit more 'contact' to give him a little more security. When the scary part is over, mother's hand gives again and goes from the little firmer contact to a little less contact.

Similarly I want my horse in all my training to understand, that I am there for him as that mother is for her child and will guide him with a little more contact where he needs my helping hand and a little less contact when less is enough. So constant communication through the horse's mouth with him by constantly giving and taking a little and we both trusting each other with it, as the child was trusting the mother's hand.

This is even more important with a driving horse than with a horse under saddle, because naturally under saddle we communicate with the horse also constantly through our seat and our legs and our balance, most of which we can't do in driving. Although a proper seat and balance of our body is equally important in driving as in riding, but in driving mainly because our seat and balance influences our arms and hands and our own relaxation, and with that certainly also our horse.

Another picture: When a good friend scratches your back, that feels so good. I arch my back in comfort towards such a scratching hand. Now the friend takes the hand away very slightly. Hey, where are you? That felt so good. So I arch my back further and follow with my back that hand, where ever it went, as I want more back scratching. You follow my picture? That's what I want to create in my horses mouth (and mind), such a comfortable feeling and in the same way as that arching back going after the scratching hand, seeking the contact, I want my horse to seek the contact with my hand through the bit.

I want to always be there, very careful and giving with my hand, but at times also taking some more contact, when he needs it to steady him. When he is afraid of something (the trashcan on our trail) or has something hard to do (the comers in the dressage ring), then a little more contact, like my arm around a friend's shoulder, who needs a hug, because he just lost somebody for example. But never a death grip, which would signal fear and tenseness. Rather a good hug signalling trust, saying "I'll guide you through this." So then, after the 'more contact', then I give again to light contact, and then, when I give my hand a little more, to almost no contact, then I want him to come after my hand to seek the contact! Asking, "Hey, where are you, hand?" Again, there is the fine line.

If the horse leans on the bit and on my hand, then there is constant pressure. Too much pressure makes it really uncomfortable for me and for the horse too, and the more uncomfortable it is for him, usually the more he will run against the bit. But if we have good communication and good 'feeling' for each other with giving and taking and a flexible jaw and neck, and a horse that works through the back and uses his hind end underneath of himself - because that's what we are trying to get with our flexible hand in front, then he can balance himself.

Because all this is really about balance. The horse needs to balance himself and we constantly need to help him with our hand to find that balance. For example, when going downhill, he needs a little more contact, so he can balance his body a little on our hand, when going uphill he needs less contact as he needs to stretch downward to pull the carriage up the hill.

👉👉 ...with constantly a little less and a little more, giving, offering, then taking again, constantly communicating..."

So the amount of contact does change constantly between a little more and a little less, and with that we help to balance the horse. In each turn I increase the contact a little, not rigid, but still soft, but just a little more than on the straight line, and with that I do help to balance the horse, and I do so in a turn to balance his bending. But I also do so driving each step on the straight line, with constantly a little less and a little more, giving, offering, then taking again, constantly communicating, and with that balancing, and not only through the turns, but also through upward and downward transitions.

There he, too, needs our hands to help him balance himself. I constantly offer him a little more rein, as I don't want him to get too strong in my hand, if he stays balanced, then he can go with less contact, if he loses his balance, starts going too fast, or stretches down too much, then I take a little again. But I keep offering it to him, constantly with very little hand movements, often like just squeezing a sponge, so more contact with the squeeze and then less again afterwards. And if I increase my contact substantially for a short moment, then we call that a half-halt. We will talk more about those hopefully also in future chapters.

👉👉 With proper balance his work will become much easier for him."

It is a long learning process for both, the horse and the driver, but only through the proper contact will the horse find his balance and only with that will he be able to do his work properly. With proper balance his work will become much easier for him. But as I said already earlier, let me state again, that can only happen if he works from behind, if we would pull him together from the front, then he cannot find his balance, he would not only have to pull the carriage but also against our hand. In order to drive him from behind we must use our aids, whip and voice to get that engine in his hind-end engaged.

The horse (and we) must learn that our aids then don't mean more speed, but more engagement. This is another very difficult task to accomplish for both of us and can be done only through our elastic feeling with our hand, as we use our aid from behind, then at the same time carefully balancing him in front. We will also cover more of this as we come to 'Impulsion and Collection'.

On the balancing, let me try another picture: Perhaps it's a bit similar to as when we were children and we were balancing on the hind legs of our chairs on the kitchen table and our parents got angry at us for doing so, afraid we would fall over (but I still like to and am still doing it.) There we constantly strive for being in perfect balance, neither falling over backwards (horse either getting too slow, or we getting too much pressure in our hands, or horse starting to evade the bit to escape too much pressure on his bars), nor to the front (horse going to fast or stretching out too much). I have a kitchen table where I have my feet on or under a low centre crossbar to help my balancing acts, and decrease the danger of falling over backwards or forwards, so I am safe there, my mother isn't here and my children are out of the house, so I can do this now safely.

And so it is with the horse, he can even lean ever so slightly a little on my hand as my helping hand is there for him to give him the support for his balance, as I do at my kitchen table with my feet on the crossbar. When the horse is working nicely, properly engaged, we cannot only feel it in the reins, we can also see it with the reins swinging a little in the rhythm of the horse's movements. For this balance we also need to understand again how important proper biting is. Too much bit, and our hand becomes too powerful, we are not in balance, too little bit, the horse can get too powerful, again, no balance.

I don't want him to lean on me. I'm not there to carry his head. That's his job. When I give my hand a little, then I want him to stretch after it. I don't want the reins to become slack. Otherwise I lost contact, I hung up the phone, since my reins are my phone to his brains, so I always want to keep some contact, even if it is very little, perhaps already through just the weight of the reins.

But I don't want him to pull on me, and just go faster when I give a little. It takes a while to get him to understand that, that giving my hand and rein means stretching his frame. If he 'pulls' then he would not stretch but go faster when I give. If he pulls, then he is not relaxed, and I am not relaxed. If he pulls, then so do I. It always takes two to pull. It becomes uncomfortable for both of us and keeps him from using his power to pull the carriage. He should not do so with his mouth. We need to keep that steady elastic feeling in the contact between us.

👉👉 This seeking the contact and stretching when we give is so important for the proper training of the horse."

This seeking the contact and stretching when we give is so important for the proper training of the horse. That's why we have the lengthened walk already in our very first dressage test, Preliminary #1, although there it's

called Free Walk on the long rein, where we want the horse to stretch the top line, the frame, and go after that bit, get long, and seek that contact! If you give your hand and your rein and he does not seek contact, then he does not stretch and lengthen either. You can see the stretching when an upper level rider leaves the arena after a dressage test or a jumping round, and he rides out of the arena at the walk, giving the horse 'the buckle' and the horses stretches all the way with great relaxation.

This is how we can teach it: After you worked your horse with some contact for a while, holding him together at the trot, then go down to the walk, and then give your hand, and he will be happy to start stretching a bit to relax his muscles. Then praise him and offer him more. He will learn to appreciate this reward. After we can do that well at the walk, I train the same at the trot. In Germany they have that as a requirement in some of their driven dressage tests, and it is a great exercise for proper driving. Seeking the contact and stretching down at the working trot, without going faster, but just longer. It takes a little before the horse understands what you want from him when you first introduce this into your training program.

When he is trotting relaxed on the bit with some contact, then start giving your hand a little, if he takes that as a signal to go faster, check him back, and tell him no. Then try again, but stay calm and relaxed. After a while most get the idea and for you it is the true test, if your horse seeks the contact, or is merely driving without contact, if he is very light, or leaning on the bit, if he is very heavy. If you have no contact, then he will not stretch if you give your hand. If he leans on the bit, then he will go faster as you give your hand. So the proper balance once again is what is so important. We don't want him to pull on our hands. When horses do that, then we have not mastered the previous step, they are not relaxed. So then we need to go back to the last chapter and get them to relax first. I know, all of this is not easy.' if it were, then we wouldn't need to work so hard at it.

👉👉 ...the proper contact is only possible with proper relaxation, with a supple and willing horse without resistance, with a flexible and giving lower jaw, and neck, and body."

So we see here also again, all the steps of the German Training Scale are really interrelated and are building on each other, and the proper contact is only possible with proper relaxation, with a supple and willing horse without resistance, with a flexible and giving lower jaw, and neck, and body. And when I can stretch down my horse by giving my hand, and by him seeking the contact and following my hand, then of course I can also pick him up again with a little half halt and then I am truly in command, and can put his head at any place I want it with just my fingers on the reins.

Only with proper contact will all my rein commands get properly through to him, to his brains but also to his entire body and all his bones, tendons and muscles, will my half halts reach him and accomplish the desired effects, will he be able to follow my hand and the reins as we work on up and downward transitions, as well as follow my wishes for changes of directions with proper bending, will I be able to help him balance himself and develop what we will cover in our next chapter, the next issue:

"SCHWUNG" = IMPULSION and ENGAGEMENT, the driving force to work forward.

After that we still have:

GERADERJCHTUNG = STRAIGHTNESS including Bending

VERSAMMLUNG = COLLECTION including Roundness

DURCHLAESSIGKEIT = SELF CARRIAGE including Confidence

More of PETER MAC'S Recollections of “*a wonderful time*” 1990-1999.



1990 TAMWORTH Harness Assoc. *Nanardine Jasper*. Held on Moonbi Sportsground, it was a very successful event for Jasper as he won the Open Pony under 14 hands, won the dressage and had the best overall score receiving the Digital trophy – two engraved silver goblets.

* 1990 Berrima Southern Highlands. *Jasper*. This part of the state was magical to drivers from the west. It seemed to be always green while we were putting up with dust.

1991 Hunter Harness Society. *Jasper*. Held at Tocal Ag. College, Maitland, a beautiful place with an original mansion overlooking the event grounds. It was high on a hill for the boss to view his station. We saw the original wooden bunker where in the early days the station workers defended themselves by shooting through the holes at undesirable visitors..

* 1991 Central West Horse Driving Society. *Nanardine Fidelity*. This event was held at Carrington Park, Oberon, home of Jim and Sandy Black. It was well conducted. It was the first event for Fidelity whose sire was Marden Swells Finality (imp). a Hackney stallion owned by Malcom Moy at Ganmain.

* 1991 Western Plains Harness Assoc. *Fidelity*. It was quite a trip to Walgett in the north, a big effort by all competitors to support a new club headed by the late Jack Rea. The marathon was over 23 kms on black soil tracks. I recall that rain was coming and if we stayed overnight after the event we would be stuck in black soil for days, so there was a scramble to leave.

* 1991 Bungendore and District Horse Drawn Club. *Fidelity*. This event was held at Gidleigh, a large station near Bungendore. Our base for the event was the shearers' quarters complete with gauzed meathouse and drop dunnies. The marathon was a great combination of hills and flats. Fidelity won the Gidleigh trophy.

1992 Hunter Harness Society and Central Coast Harness Club. I was TD. This event was held at Lochinvar in conjunction with a ridden 3 Day Event. It was a challenge to organise these two events together. One memory was of a four-in-hand getting away in an obstacle and bolting towards a tent of sponsors and VIPs, veering off and hitting a Landcruiser head on. The leaders went either side and the pole speared the radiator.

* 1992 Gundagai Carriage Driving Assoc. *Fidelity*. The marathon attracted the townspeople of Gundagai with chairs for an afternoon of entertainment. They were never disappointed. An obstacle in a bog hole was the main attraction. One team of Shetlands avoided the mud and clambered up a very steep bank much to the cheering of the onlookers. Also it was great to see a lot of children of drivers playing soccer in the moonlight.

* 1992 Central West Horse Driving. I judged dressage. Once again at Carrington Park, Oberon where it was always a pleasure to drive over rolling hills and green flats. The hills were very demanding on untrained horses.

* 1992 Pioneer Country Harness Club. *Fidelity*. This event was held at Nyah on the banks of the Murray River. The marathon was held through forests of red gum to the enjoyment of many campers. There were 84 entries, 21 in Novice Pony so drivers in this class earned their ribbons.

* 1992 Camden Harness Club. *Fidelity*. Held at St Gregorys College Narellan, this event was over the mountains for us and pulling a float was slow driving. The college grounds were very pleasant to drive.

1993 NSW Carriage Driving Championships. *Fidelity*. Conducted by a committee of the NSW Branch this event was mostly on the Bungendore Showground and the marathon of 25km was on district roads. It was a good effort by this appointed committee.

* 1993 Far South Coast Harness Club. *Fidelity*. The trip to Bega from the west was always challenging for drivers from over the mountains. We never looked forward to being pushed down Brown Mountain, but this event was worth it. On the marathon one driver was pushed down a steep hill and jack knifed into a fence. The horse bolted after breaking away from the vehicle and was caught in a barbed wire fence. All ended well with only a few scratches.

* 1993 Gundagai Carriage Drivers Assoc. *Fidelity*. A great event based at the Showgrounds with the marathon on stock routes and around the town before crossing the Common. The obstacles were always great with some challenging water and mud needing a horse willing to go forward. I have fond memories of our Western Plains competitor Jack Rea who had travelled 700 kms from Walgett. He was always looking for a quick way through an obstacle. There was one in trees where Jack fancied the short way, he stepped out the distance between two trees (no measuring tape) and said he could fit with two inches to spare. He drove a big hackney horse *Makari Scotsman*, usually pretty fast. Unfortunately *Scotty* wasn't right in the centre and they wiped off one wheel and shaft. Jack's comment to me after horse and vehicle were rescued, "Lucky I know a good fixer!".

* 1993 NSW Carriage Driving Championships. *Fidelity*. Held on Bungendore Showgrounds, there were 48 entries, Novice Ponies being the biggest class. There are six drivers off the start list still competing in 2016.

1994 Central West Horse Driving Soc. *Fidelity*. Held on the Parkes showground in ideal conditions. The marathon was run on the south side of town on stock routes and minor roads. In 2017 these tracks are no longer available, the stock routes are now closed and the land has been cut up into building blocks with narrow bitumen roads.

* 1994 Central Coast Harness Club. Held at Aureate Stud at Mandalong. I did not attend mostly likely due to the way we had to drive to reach it..

* 1994 Southern Highlands Horse Drawn Vehicle Club. *Fidelity*. Not much recollection of this event, it was run on the Burradoo Polo ground after polo had been played in the wet. It was very rough.

* 1994 Shepparton and District Harness Horse Soc. *Nanardine Bella J*. These Victorian Championships were held at Cobram on the Murray River. A really delightful place, a great marathon along the river with many campers looking on. The score sheet brings back old memories – 1st John Munro, 2nd Tom Wood 3rd Peter Mc. 45 competitors in all.

1995 Hunter Horse Driving Soc. *Fidelity*. NSW Championships held on Maitland Showground. There were 50 entries and I wonder in 2017 how many of these horses are in retirement or looking down on us. In these years we had to cope with up to 27km marathons and still have a good heart rate at the end.

* 1995 Canberra District Harness Soc. *Bella J*. Held from Yass Showground which has great shade around the ring. The marathon took us under the Hume Highway, a long cement tunnel.

1996 Shepparton and District Harness Horse Soc. *Bella J*. This Victorian Championship was held on the Sportsground and what a great time was had by all 80 entries. My Hackney pony really loved the 27km marathon. Jack Rea, my good mate from Walgett was my groom and what a time we had as Jack was very competitive. I was not, I regarded a ribbon of any colour as a bonus. We camped beside orchards close to a channel and the mossies were there in millions. Jack would not put his swag in the float with me (people would talk about us) so he camped outside and was eaten alive for three nights. When the scores came out Jack was first at the board, he wrote the results on the cover of the programme. 1st Alan McEwan 2nd Debra Hatton 3rd Lyn Harding 4th Peter McIntyre and we will get up front next time! What a memory of a great driver.



“Jack Rea, my good mate from Walgett”, the groom is Bronwyn Johnson and the pony is Gigolo. Photo: Linda Mace

* 1996 Bega Valley Harness Soc. *Fidelity*. Ann and I made a lot of visits to Bega. It was always a challenging event as the marathon was for very fit horses, 27 kms in hill country with creek and river crossings, as the schedule stated. It was a fair warning to all.

* 1996 Camden Harness Club. *Fidelity*. Held at the Ag College at Menangle, a very historic place. It was a large property so the marathon was held on the grounds. The driving was always pleasant as the grass was very green to us drivers from much further west.

* 1996 ACDS Silver Jubilee Event. I was TD. Held at Agview College Camden it included CDE, Showing, Endurance and a Pleasure Drive. It was a major event for all classes of drivers.

1997 Masters Games. *Fidelity*. Held at Hall near Canberra. Due to everything that went wrong I was amazed to win an award. Ann was not grooming at the time so I found a young person to go with

me but she knew nothing about horses let alone Driving. It took a long time to explain what I would like her to do. When I asked her where to go in an obstacle she replied, “I don't know”. We came across a competitor with a broken cross spring and I stopped to help. I asked my groom to get a strap from my box of spares, she said, “What's a strap?”

The time taken had me sweating, but it didn't matter much as she forgot to start the clock! With the greatest good luck I won the gold medal in the over 50 class.

* 1997 Ellmore Driving Club. I was TD. Held at Koorawatha a small village between Cowra and Young, it was a great event in a rural setting. As a TD I mostly took my own horse to drive the course so I would be satisfied that it was safe and fair for all competitors. Over the years this action by a TD was appreciated and I got to drive my horse, so I wasn't missing out entirely and it was good training for the young horses I was bringing on.

* 1997 Central Coast Harness Club. *Fidelity*. This Level 1 event was held at the Pony Club grounds at Eraring Power Station. On the marathon I approached an obstacle on a steep creek bank, hit a tree root and bounced out over the wheel leaving my groom Ann, who jumped out. It was the last time she groomed! *Fidelity* trotted on not knowing she had no driver and jammed herself between a fence and a tree. All ended well.

1998 Camden and Southern Highlands. I was TD. NSW Championship held at Agview Camden. A very good event run in conjunction with the Greater Western Games which had 11 Councils involved.

* 1998 Riverina Horse Driving Club. *Fidelity*. This event is still run each year in memory of Joe Hawkins, a founding member. It was held on Council grounds on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River.

* 1998 Hunter Horse Driving Soc. *Fidelity*. Held at Tocal College, Pater-son, which teaches the students a range of horse careers. Hunter Club members never failed to run a great event.

1999 Riverina Horse Driving Soc. *Fidelity*. Held at San Isadore sports oval near Wagga.

* 1999 Camden Harness Club and Southern Highlands. *Nanardine Destiny*. Level 2 event held at Agview, Camden. An exciting event for my young pony's first start. There was a band in an obstacle which started playing as each competitor approached.

* 1999 Carriage Driving New England. *Destiny*. A very interesting drive for us to Bingara in northern NSW. This township grew up around horses, in 1999 the mustering was still done on horses and the town had a resident saddler. The showground was the venue and the Cones were run in the cutting ring where the sand was about four inches deep. It was our first experience of a sand ring and very heavy pulling.

Peter McIntyre

ACDS Horse Registration process

- ACDS Horse registration is required for participation in CDEs, Graded Driven Dressage and Indoor Competitions – the one registration number covers all activities.
- Application Form is available from the ACDS website – to avoid processing delays, please ensure all relevant details are completed clearly and legibly, including the marking of both diagrams.
- Application and payment / evidence of payment may be sent directly to the ACDS Horse Registrar. (If paying by direct deposit into the ACDS bank account, please ensure you reference your name and reason for the payment). Processing will not begin without payment / evidence of payment.
- It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure they have obtained a horse registration number for their equine/s and to provide this to event organisers on their entry form – ‘pending’, ‘tba’ etc are not valid responses. Organisers may at their discretion ask for evidence of horse registration.
- Competing in the above activities without a valid horse registration is a breach of the rules and may result in elimination from that competition.

TWO NEW State Show Driving Convenors have been welcomed during 2017 – Carolyn Blakeley has taken over as New South Wales Convenor from me, and Natalie Morris is the new Western Australian Show Driving Convenor. Natalie has replaced Marg Langan, who did a wonderful job for show driving in WA over many years. Marg is now the WA State President. Carolyn and Natalie join Queensland’s Debbie Clyne and Tasmania’s Norma Potter, both excellent convenors and ambassadors for show driving. I’m sure Carolyn and Natalie will be the same. The ACDS is lucky to have such an enthusiastic group on board, and I encourage drivers to support them in all their endeavours regarding show driving.

Victoria and South Australia unfortunately do not currently have Show Driving Convenors. Hopefully someone from each state will put their hands up soon to fill these important positions. Both states have many top class show drivers and show horses and ponies.

It is really good to note that NSW, Queensland, WA, Victoria and Tasmania will have all held State Show Driving Championships by the end of the year, with WA also holding the National Show Driving Championships. As well, Show Driving Schools and Judge Exams have been held in Queensland, WA, Tasmania and NSW. A total of thirteen new judges have been added to the ACDS list as a result of the Exams.

Looking to next year, State Shows already planned are NSW (6th May at Bundanoon), Tasmania (late in the year) and South Australia (June) whilst the National Show will be held in NSW at the Hawkesbury Showground on 11th November. Show Drivers and Judges Schools are already being planned for South Australia and NSW.

A draft rota amongst the states for the National Show has been submitted to the Federal Council for consideration. It has the proviso that if a state is unable to host the show in ‘its’ year, another state could pick it up, without disturbing the rota. The planned rota is:

2018 - NSW; 2019 - SA; 2020 - Qld; 2021 - Vic; 2022 - Tas; 2023 - WA; 2024 - NSW.

On another note, some new classes have been introduced at ACDS Shows over the last couple of years, with enthusiastic responses from exhibitors. These include a Newcomers Class for horses and ponies which were not shown in harness prior to 1st January of the current year; an Off the Track class for ex-racing Standardbreds and Thoroughbreds, and a Veterans class for horses and ponies over 16 years of age.

Another popular innovation has been the running of Static Horse Drawn Vehicle Shows in conjunction with the ACDS Shows. A number of old and interesting vehicles which would be rarely seen in public nowadays, have been exhibited and much admired by showgoers.

Janet Muspratt

WHEELWRIGHT.

- The Parkes wheelwright equipment is now at Mandurama near Orange NSW.
- New steel all sizes, rubber tyres, wooden wheels cut and shut.
- Heavy horse wheels cut and shut.
- Quality work.

John McIntyre 0401 527 343



the ACDS
.....
needs you!

Federal Office Bearer and Federal Council appointed positions will become vacant at the 2018 AGM.

A number of the people currently in these roles are either ineligible to re-stand, or have indicated a wish to step down, so the ACDS needs willing, active members to take on jobs.

A diverse range of roles including Federal President, Federal Secretary, Journal Managing Editor, Young Driver Coordinator, Federal Publicity Officer and more, so there is something for everyone!

If you are interested in learning more about these or other federal roles, please contact the Federal Secretary for a copy of the Position Description.

A federal administrative role in the ACDS can be a very rewarding way of giving something back to the sport, so don’t be shy – put up your hand now!

Cootamundra Venue Proves Popular Success!

CANBERRA CLUB’S CDE on the weekend of 21/22 October, on Judy and Garry Harris’ property Corramandel was an outstanding success! Initially, the club had difficulty hosting the event (at their new grounds at Murrumbateman) when the Yass Council double booked the CDE with the huge Murrumbateman Field Days. Rather than change the date, the club decided to hang onto that important weekend as it was a fortnight before the NSW Championships at Witwood. This proved a popular decision as they received 26 entries for the Level 3 event. Entries may also have been boosted by the use of the Level 1 State Championship dressage tests at this Level 3 event. Permission for this was obtained from the Federal CDE Committee.

Full credit for the success of the event must go to Garry (Course Designer and builder) and Judy (Event Secretary). They also made a significant contribution by rounding up sufficient Marathon Stewards so that the Share Stewarding System wasn’t necessary on the day - no mean feat!

The event’s Technical Delegate, Trevor Brand, was very pleased with the facilities and the way the event ran. Canberra club members are most grateful to him and the following officiating judges: Dressage - Sue Plath and Judy Dwyer; Cones - David Royle. Also many thanks to the experienced carriage drivers who volunteered on the day to act as pen-cillers and stewards.

The dressage arena at Corramandel is most adequate for a Level 3 CDE and this phase got underway in cool sunny conditions. Competitors drove their cones competition soon after their dressage test.

Best Novice tests were: Tracey Ellis (NLP) 40.37; Belinda Casper (NH) 48.42; Tracey Tuohy (NSP) 50.11; Ben Rosetta (NLP) 51.37; Yvonne Brown (NLP) 56.42; Auburn Carr (NSP) 56.51.

Best scores in the Intermediate/Open classes were: Sarah Keevers (OSP) 42.72; Lyn Callaghan (OH) 46.72; Karen Rogers (PT) 48.16; Kookie Engelsman (ILP) 48.80; Mandy Lawrence (IM) 56.75; Chuckie Radnedge (HP) 59.20.

The open and flowing cones course was set among trees and nestled in a shady gully. It drove well - maybe too well with nearly 50% of competitors achieving double clear rounds. The double clears in the NSP class were scored by: Liz O’Brien, Kirsty Beecroft, Auburn Carr and Tracey Tuohy. Double clears in the NLP class were: Yvonne Brown, Ben Rosetta, Graeme Dowling and Tracey Ellis. Other double clears were: Belinda Casper (NH), Kookie Engelsman (ILP), Sarah Keevers (OSP), Karen Rogers (PT).

The Event Dinner on the Saturday night for approximately 50 people, with two courses catered by some Canberra Club members, was a most enjoyable occasion.

The 16 kilometer marathon course was set wholly within the property and adjacent tracks on undulating terrain with five MOs conducive to a Level 3 event.

MO1 was portable and made up of triangular and square timber frames. MO2 was plastic drums mounted on timber posts. MO3 was galvanized steel pipes standing in the ground. MO4 was made of numerous black plastic cones with road cones on top and a dislodgeable ball on top. MO5 was yellow and blue timber posts in the ground.

The course was well marked and very well presented with slashed tracks in the paddocks.

Best marathon scores were: Sarah Keevers (OSP) 29.57; Ben Rosetta (NLP) 31.89; Lyn Callaghan (OH) 33.51; Tracy Tuohy (NSP) 34.44; Auburn Carr (NSP) 34.71; Graeme Dowling (NLP) 35.95; Amy Woodfield (NLP) 37.46; Yvonne Brown (NLP) 38.90; Tracey Ellis (NLP) 39.21; Maakie van Dam (NLP) 40.26; Kirsty Beecroft (NSP) 41.46; Liz O’Brien (NSP) 42.30.

Best multiples marathon score was Karen Rogers (PT) 44.90.

FINAL RESULTS SUMMARY

Class 1: Novice Pony 91cm - u121cm 1. Tracey Tuohy 84.55; 2. Auburn Carr 91.23; 3.Kirsty Beecroft 103.57; 4. Liz O’Brien 114.93; 5. Val Wooley 123.90;

Class 2: Novice Pony 121cm – ne 149cm 1. Tracey Ellis 79.58; 2. Ben

Rosetta 83.26; 3. Yvonne Brown 95.32; 4. Amy Woodfield 110.62; 5. Maakie van Dam 114.58

Class 3: Novice Horse o 149cm 1. Belinda Casper 95.01; 2. Peter Dunn 119.43;

Class 5: Intermediate Pony 121cm ne 149cm 1. Kookie Engelsman 97.18;

Class 7: Open Pony 91cm- u121cm 1. Sarah Keevers 72.29;

Class 9: Open Horse o 149cm 1. Lyn Callaghan 86.23;

Class 11: Horse Pair o 149cm 1. Chuckie Radnedge 125.52;

Class 12: Pony Tandem 91cm – ne 149cm 1. Karen Rogers 93.06;

Class 16: Introductory Multiples 1. Mandy Lawrence 111.94;

It was pleasing to receive feedback from Marathon Stewards that competitors were very polite in expressing their gratitude for the efforts and generosity of the stewards!

Speaking of generosity, sponsors play a major part in the success of any sporting event and this combined driving event was no different. Organisers and competitors alike were grateful for the support of the following sponsors - Scribblegum Design and Print, Cootamundra Stock Feeds & Hunting Supplies, Tumut Hydraulics as major sponsors assisted by Grenfell Commodities, Lance’s Produce Grenfell and Mark Hewitt Racing.

At the event prize-giving, the Canberra Carriage Driving Club and the Harris family in particular were congratulated by prize winners for hosting such a successful event a fortnight before the NSW Championships.

KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

NSP – Novice Small Pony NLP – Novice Large Pony

NH – Novice Horse ILP – Intermediate Large Pony

OSP – Open Small Pony OH – Open Horse

HP – Horse Pair PT – Pony Tandem IM – Introductory Multiples

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Plan ahead to make your weekend less stressful and more enjoyable ...

THANK YOU to all those who completed the recent Survey Monkey for the CDE committee. With nearly 200 responses, your input will help ensure that the 2018 edition of the ACDS CDE Rulebook reflects what members want.

Congratulations to all the clubs who have run such a great series of CDEs and other competitions over the last months. Thank you to organisers, judges, volunteers and competitors for making such a great start to the outdoor season.

Preparing and packing for competitions recently, I have realised that many little things add up to make it easier to do as well as we can. Planning ahead can help make your weekend less stressful and more enjoyable.

Preparing to compete at an event

ENTERING in a competition is a great way to focus your training, drive regularly and have an aim for your driving. It is oh so easy to be too cold, too hot, too tired or too busy to drive. We drive because we love it, and entering a competition motivates regular driving.

One of the pleasures of life is in perusing the state calendars and deciding what to be tempted to drive at. Get your entries in before the deadline, so the event secretary knows to expect you.

Read your ACDS CDE Rulebook! It gives you the rules under which we compete, and will help you understand what is needed. If you find it confusing, ask questions and have a conversation with other competitors and your State CDE Convenor.

It takes at least six weeks of regular exercise to be fit enough to comfortably complete a marathon. If your horse is carrying a bit of extra weight after being out on pasture, then this must also be taken into account and extra time may be needed to slim down and get fit. Regular driving is the best way to increase both fitness and your rein handling skills.

Feeding as training progresses is a science and an art, but horses need energy to be able to compete well. I spent years feeding mostly plain hay, with fine results, but now I feed a more balanced energy-rich diet my ponies certainly do show more action and sustained energy.

Learn your dressage test and practise the movements and accuracy. Do not just rely on the dressage diagrams, but read the description that clearly shows what will be judged. Lessons can be very helpful in correcting issues and learning how to improve your driving. Double check the test you learn is the one your class requires, and review it before you leave for a competition. It is very easy to lead yourself astray and not remember a test correctly!

Packing for an event

THE DAYS when we lived on muesli bars for the weekend of a competition are long gone, but Mark still remembers them vividly and not fondly. Good, regular nutrition really reduces your stress and pack plenty of water and other drinks to keep you hydrated.

A list means you are less likely to leave essential items behind, but not a guarantee. You still need to check it! If you find you have left something behind, ask around as people are very helpful. I remember at one event all our white shirts were clean, and left in the ironing basket at home. Feeling very stupid, I asked for help and three white shirts appeared quickly.

Check your car and float or truck tyres, and that registration and servicing is up-to-date. If travelling interstate it is a good idea to review the road rules in the state to which you are travelling. Check your stopwatches are working before you leave home, as it can be tricky finding the right batteries and fitting them. It is a good idea to take a copy of your horse registration papers and membership card, as well as medical armbands as they may be required.

Role of the TD and the Ground Jury

THE TECHNICAL DELEGATE’S job is to ensure the competition and courses are fair and safe for all, to make sure volunteers know their duties and to supervise the technical conduct of the event in consultation with the ground jury.

If something concerns you as a competitor about the course, talk with the Technical Delegate. They want to know and are there to help you!

The Ground Jury approves the course when they are satisfied with it, and runs the competition once it has started, ensuring the smooth running of the event. The Ground Jury usually consists of three people, selected from the dressage and cones judges officiating at the event. Their main focus is to ensure the safety of horses, competitors, volunteers and spectators. One of their final tasks is to approve the scores before they are posted.

Trot-up

The trot-up is where the Ground Jury and a Vet or TPR Steward checks the heart rate and the action of your horse at the walk and trot.

At the trot-up you and your horse need to be clean and neat. Club gear including a cap is fine to wear, and you need footwear that is appropriate to run in and be safe around horses. Your horse needs to be in an open, bitted bridle, so it can be easily controlled and have good visibility.

Courtesy

JUDGES SHOULD BE easily identifiable as they are dressed more formally than stewards, usually wearing a jacket and hat. If the weather is hot, jackets may be removed by both judges and competitors – but you will be told of this on the day.

Be ready to compete at the time written on the timetable. Dressage start times are usually emailed to competitors in the week before the competition. Marathon and cones start times, if a three day competition, will be posted on the event noticeboard by the evening before that part of the event.

As part of your dressage test you salute the head judge. It is a courtesy to also salute the side judge as you exit the arena at a working trot. When you present to the Cones Judge, show your respect by saluting them. This may be from a halt or trot, depending on how the cones competition is organised. In the marathon it is helpful to stewards at the MOs if you or your groom call out your number as you approach.

Officials, judges and stewards donate their time and expertise to help run events. It is always lovely when competitors thank them as the weekend progresses.

Sometimes it can be difficult to understand what stewards and officials mean. If you have a groom, they can ask for clarification as you will be focused on your driving. Your groom can also be your lookout and tell you when the judges are ready for you.

If you pull out before the marathon starts, make sure you tell the organisers so stewards know not to expect you.

Safety

BE AWARE of other competitors, ground conditions and traffic. This helps the safety of all. If you see something you think may be a danger, tell the Technical Delegate or another official so it can be dealt with before it causes an accident.

If you have a horse with small ears or a lush mane or are driving a multiple, it may be useful to plait a small section of the top of the mane to secure the winkers. This will stop the possibility of the horse rubbing off its’ winkers. I fold a shoelace on the top of the headband and incorporate it into a small plait at the top of the mane.

Sitting on the ends of your reins will stop them dragging on the ground. Zilco make a nice buckle with a loop in it to put between the reins, then you put the loop on your little finger. You can make up something like this using a shoelace.

Don’t gallop your horses until they are trained to listen and stop at your command.

Marathon times

YOUR TIMES for marathon sections will be posted on the event noticeboard by Saturday evening. In Section A there is a two minute window, which you will gain no penalty points for arriving in. For section D, the walk, you are given one time only. Arriving under this time earns you no penalty points. Section E has a three minute window, which gives you no penalty points if you arrive within this window.

Remember, if you are concerned about the fitness of your horse or how it is going, slow down and accept the penalty points.

Using the times and distances supplied by the organisers, work out when you should be passing each kilometre marker in each section. There are a variety of ways to calculate times – possibly the easiest being to find someone who likes to do this and ask them! Alternatives include estimating in your head, using a calculator, using an app or a website like http://www.britishcarriagedriving.co.uk/marathon_times_calculator.htm, using an excel spreadsheet or using the table given in the CDE Organisational Manual. Many competitors laminate this table and bring it with them to events.

I like to calculate the times to the middle time in the window, then estimate to the closest simple-to-remember number so I can use it easily on the marathon. The only trick you need to remember is to convert seconds to decimals to do the calculation, then back again at the end.

EXAMPLE:

Section A: 5.4 km Time allowed 28.30 – 30.30 Section D: 800 m Time allowed 9.25 Section E: 6.7 km Time allowed 37.30 – 40.30

Section A

Section A is 5.4 km long and I have between 28 minutes 30 seconds and 30 minutes 30 seconds to drive it in to get no time penalties.

Mid time is 29 minutes 30 seconds. 30 seconds = 30/60 minutes = 0.5 minutes.

So I have 29.5 minutes to drive 5.4 km.

$29.5 \div 5.4 = 5.46$ minutes per kilometre. $0.46 \times 60 = 27.7$ seconds

So 5 minutes 27.7 seconds per kilometre. Easier-to-remember time is 5 minutes 30 seconds, which still keeps me in the two minute window.

Section D

I need to walk under 9 minutes 25 seconds here. If I can estimate halfway and note where this is, I know I need to be there by 4 minutes 42 seconds to be in with no penalties.

Section E

The time for this section includes times in the marathon obstacles (MOs), and is usually a bit slower than the time for Section A. In this example Section E is 6.7 km long and I have between 37 minutes 30 seconds and 40 minutes 30 seconds to complete it with no time penalties.

Mid time is 39 minutes and distance is 6.7 km.

Time per kilometre is $39 \div 6.7 = 5.82$ minutes per kilometre.

$0.82 \times 60 = 49$ seconds

So 5 minutes 49 seconds per kilometre. Easier-to-remember time is 5 minutes 50 seconds, which still keeps me in the two minute window.

Then I write the times for each section out clearly on a piece of paper and tape it to my carriage where I and/or my groom can see it.

These times will enable you to compete with no time penalties. If your horse is not coping with the speeds, take the penalties and look after your horse.

SECTION A	5.4km	28.30-30.30
1	5m 30s	4 22m
2	11m	5 27m 30s
3	16m 30s	5.4 28.30 - 30.30
SECTION D	800m	9.25
1/2 way	4m 42s	
SECTION E	6.7 km	37.30 - 40.30
1	5m 50s	4 23m 20s
2	11m 40s	5 29m 10s
3	17m 30s	6 35m
	6.7	37.30 - 40.30

If you arrive at an MO and there is another competitor in the obstacle you will be held by a steward. For ease of calculations, it is best if the steward holds you for whole minute intervals, as then you will find it easier to keep track of your changed finishing time. The time you are held will be deducted from your actual finished time by the scorer, so as to give no time penalties. In practical terms, simply add the time you are held to your finish time and use this as your new finishing time.

Remember, do not use a GPS feature on your phone on the course as our rules do not allow it. This phone feature is great for training, but not at a competition. A bike speedometer is also a helpful training aid, as long as it is calibrated to your wheel size and removed before competition.

Marathon useful spares

THE DAYS WHEN a host of spares had to be carried on the marathon are passed. However, there are a number of items that may be useful in a predicament.

Two stopwatches are vital, as one can be a backup and used if you are held at an MO. It is surprising how stopwatches stop at inappropriate times, so having a backup is helpful.

A roll of Elastoplast can be used if a shoe is lost to wrap the hoof, protecting it enough to complete the course. Under halters and a lead rope for each horse are also a good idea. Spare clips in case one breaks and zip ties don’t take much room.

Please don’t take food for your groom as mine will get very jealous, but some water and a muesli bar or lollies can be welcome.

Marathon vet checks

ON MARATHON DAY there are vet checks undertaken by a vet or TPR steward after the end of the walk section and up to 30 minutes after the end of the marathon. Horses are checked for signs of stress, locomotor disturbance, external injury and loose or thrown shoes.

It is a good idea to put a bucket of water and a sponge at the vet check before your marathon. Please only use your own buckets and sponges as a courtesy to those who have prepared their buckets, and also to minimise the chance of transmission of disease.

At the inspection after the ten minute rest after the walk section, heart rate must be less than 75 beats per minute (bpm) to proceed. At the inspection after the end of Section E, heart rate must be below 70 bpm. A reducing heart rate reflects the fitness of the horse.

For more detail see articles 935.2 and 935.3 in the ACDS CDE Rulebook.

Have fun, keep driving and get out and give it a go.

Karen Rogers Federal CDE Convenor

What’s The Penalty?

- What’s the penalty for groom in a sulky grabbing a dropped rein in the dressage test?**
 - 20 penalties
 - Elimination
 - No penalty
- What’s the penalty for no reflectors on a carriage without lamps?**
 - No penalty
 - 5 penalties
 - A verbal warning for first offence
- What’s the penalty for a groom walking the cones course?**
 - A warning for first offence then elimination for second offence.
 - Possible elimination by Ground Jury
 - No penalty
- In addition to the 20 point penalty for driving MO gates A, B then D, what is the penalty for driving through D & E on the way to C? (after C, they then drive D, E & F.)**
 - 40 more penalties
 - Elimination
 - No penalty

TJ1217

WHAT’S THE PENALTY? ANSWERS:
1. a) Art 943.2.5 2. b) Art 938
3. a) 973.7.1 4. c) Art 965.2.4

HI EVERYONE. After a vacancy for the last 12 months, I have decided to step up and take on the role of Federal Pleasure and Endurance Convenor. For those that do not know me I am the president of Liverpool Range Harness Club New South Wales, I live in Tamworth. I have been a member of the ACDS for 33 years. I was an advanced TD for 28 years and former member of the old Central Coast Harness Club for 25 years until it folded. I was a member of the old AHEDA (Australian Harness Endurance Drivers Association) which folded at the end of the nineties and has now been absorbed into the ACDS.

I have held many club positions and have been involved with running countless events over the years. CDE shows, pleasure driving, enduros and schools. I have driven all combinations having competed for 13 years in tandem. My wife and I have won four Fifield Enduros in pony class, and at present our club has just run the 8th Annual Charity Drive.

AIMS

OVER THE NEXT 12 months, I will endeavour to find out how we can increase pleasure driving and try and promote endurance driving in all States of Australia. NSW is the capital of pleasure and endurance, but every other State is lacking. There are no pleasure driving events or endurance in any other State of Australia except NSW. I will talk with State convenors and committees to see if we can overcome problems, give support, knowledge and help, so events can be held in these States.

A common problem we have in Australian Driving which affects all disciplines is distance, climate and topography. Australia is huge in distance and the temperature can vary greatly.

THE PICTURE AT PRESENT

QUITE A FEW CLUBS in Australia have small pleasure drives, as well as doing other disciplines, schools and fun events. Endurance is only held in NSW and there are at present four events held annually, two mini three day events (Yalbraith, Goulburn Club, Round Hill, Hunter-Liverpool Range) and two major one week events (Fifield, Central West and Marrar, Reedy Creek Club). All of these events also incorporate pleasure drives.

Major pleasure drives are only held in NSW. At present there are five annual events. The oldest running event is the Henry Lawson Pilgrimage Drive run by the Gulgong Club (18 years). The biggest attended event is the Liverpool Range Harness Club Charity Drive for the Royal Far West. This has been in operation for eight years, averaging 30 entries.

The leisure drive held at Gulgong run by Hunter and Camden has been in operation for about eight years. The ladies drive held at Spring Ridge is run by Liverpool Range and the men's drive is run by the Gulgong Club.

In conclusion, pleasure and endurance needs to grow into all States of Australia, especially when 75% of the ACDS are pleasure drivers. We need to take an interest in the running of the ACDS at State and Federal level.

Try to attend at least one State meeting annually if you can. If we all take a no-care attitude, driving will not progress. I had fallen into that frame of mind, but I want to share the joy of pleasure driving with all Australians and keep the ACDS alive and growing.

Peter Honeyman



Liverpool Range Club Charity Drive: Above left: Drivers crossing the Namoi River. Above right: Helen Butcher. Below left: The participants in the 2017 Liverpool Range Club Charity Drive. Photos: S Jones. Below right: Karen Silvester, Vicki Quinn and Jenny Conquest at their comfortable campsite at Trelawney Station. Photo: K Silvester.



Liverpool Range Harness Club Charity Drive

THIS YEAR MARKED the eighth year that the Liverpool Range Club has run its Charity Harness Drive in aid of the Royal Far West, Quirindi Branch. This event started as a chance for members of the club to give back to The Royal Far West, a charity which has helped many members' friends and families over the years.

This year's drive travelled the quiet country roads around the districts of Manilla and Somerton. Camping was at Manilla Showground from Friday September 15 until Tuesday September 19, then at Trelawney Station until the finish of the drive on Sunday September 24.

The event was a great opportunity for pleasure harness driving enthusiasts, including local as well as other NSW and interstate drivers, to share the journey and experience the lovely countryside of the area. There is always that trepidation when organising an event of 'Will they come?' Well, yes they did! Thirty-one drivers registered, and along with grooms, partners and support crew, 45 people participated. President Peter Honeyman, together with Secretary Judy Tonkiss and Safety Officer John Tonkiss, carried the lion's share of bringing the drive together. Unless you have been involved in such an endeavour, you can never fully realise the personal commitment of time and energy that is expended on such a venture.

The first Saturday afternoon saw all participants gather for an introductory summary of the drive and its safety issues, before everyone walked to the Manilla RSL where a lovely welcome dinner was enjoyed. Afterwards there was relaxation around the campfires, setting the mood for the week ahead, with everyone in good spirits.

The drive itself was in complete contrast to last year's drive which was very wet, with the countryside lush and green. This year's winter drought has led into a dry spring with above average temperatures, leaving the countryside parched, and crops struggling. The only green that could be seen was the irrigated river country which we travelled through on our first outing. Leaving the showground, with our escorts front and back, we followed the Manilla River doing a return trip of 28km. Not long into the drive, Janice Reynolds had the misfortune to break a swingle bar. We all felt her dismay, as Janice has been a constant supporter of our drives, making the journey all the way from the Riverina each year. However, whilst walking back with her horse, she said she had the opportunity to talk to some of the locals and even collected some donations. Fortunately the ever handy craftsman Bruce Donnelly had her up and driving with us again the following day!

All the horses travelled well, with the smaller ones handling the distance well, coming in only a short time after the fast moving Standies. The drive took us past Mt Borah, renowned as a popular hang gliding spot. Low and behold if a hang glider wasn't wending his way down towards us to land at that moment! I'm not sure if John had foreseen that as a safety issue, but I am sure we were all wondering what the horses' reaction would be. A big sigh of relief was expended as he landed before we got up to him.

At the first of the nightly meetings to discuss the day's drive and outline the next, everyone commented on the great gravel roads we had travelled on, and the lack of traffic. This is a pleasure driver's dream journey, and was to be repeated over the following days. Monday saw the entourage of horses head north east of Manilla following the Namoi River Road before veering northwest up over a few steep inclines following Crow Mountain Road. We crossed through some private property to reach the first of our BBQ lunches, provided and hosted by the Liverpool Range Club. It was a great pleasure to unharness and have lunch already cooked, with a cup of tea to follow. Thank you to club members Doug and Sally Jones along with Malcolm Grace, who saw everyone fed and watered. They were ably assisted by Robbie and Judy Baxter who had surprised us all by arriving with a van in tow, to join us for a few days. It was great to see them after a few years' absence. It was even better to hear that Robbie is on a good path to recovery from cancer – a journey being shared by another participant Ian Small, also in remission.

Tuesday saw the camp make the 40km move to Trelawney Station near Somerton. This was an epic trip in extreme weather, The temperature had been steadily climbing into the high 30s with hot winds making it feel even hotter. It was a relief to see the village of Somerton in the distance, and finally reach Trelawney mid afternoon to settle into camp. Trelawney is owned by the Tamworth Local Aboriginal Lands Council and was kindly donated for our use as a base camp for the remainder of our drive.

The station is utilised as a resource training centre for aboriginal youth interested in agriculture. The kitchen, dining and meeting room facilities, along with toilets and hot showers, were excellent. The manager Ian Blowes went out of his way to make sure all was in readiness for our arrival. The grounds were freshly mowed and there was ample water on hand. The camp had a great view of the ranges to the south of Somerton following the valley along the Peel River to Tamworth. Though dry, it was still a beautiful view. Luckily the wind abated and we were able to gather around a campfire and relax at last.

Wednesday's drive was into the village of Somerton to meet the school children. It is only a small school so it was very humbling to have them present us with a donation of \$34 raised at a mufti day, along with some mugs and memorabilia of Somerton. Some of the mugs were later presented as Mug of the Day trophies. With the heat building again, we headed back to Trelawney via back lanes, covering a distance of 26km for the day.

Thursday's drive was cross country to a property called Sherwood, owned by Dennis Forest. We made use of his stockyard for water and shade for another BBQ lunch. We also took the opportunity for a group photo. It was a lovely moment to share with everyone. Driving together over a number of days brings a certain closeness. Lots of laughter and jokes were shared over lunch. It makes for good friendships and a sense of accomplishment, even though you may be tired and dusty.

Friday's drive was another 32km, travelling through several grazing properties, with lots of cattle and lots of gates. The evening had no fire to share due to a Fire Ban being in place, so a games night was held in the meeting room. Doug Jones also entertained us with his jokes, causing much laughter.

On Saturday the drive was changed to a short trip into Somerton as the heat wave had well and truly set in. The horses had travelled well thus far in often extreme heat, to cover a total of 223.6km, and were deserving of an early break. A lovely afternoon tea was shared by all, leading into a Farewell Dinner provided by donations from Crust and Cream Cake Shop and Baiada / Steggles.

The raffle was drawn and Joy Hawkins was right in the money, winning first and third prizes of a week's holiday at Scotts Head, and \$50, respectively. Congratulations to Joy who is a member of the Hunter Club, and has been a good supporter of Liverpool Range Club drives. Successful bidders on the silent auctions held over the week were announced, and a number of wine bottle throws were held. It was a fun evening to finish off a very successful week's drive.

Sunday saw a convoy of assorted vehicles head out for the north, south, east and west, with very long journeys ahead for many. Peter and his team can be assured that they had organised a great drive, offering a unique experience.

Participants were: Liverpool Range Club: Peter and Trish Honeyman, Christine O'Rourke, Ron Miller, Colleen Dunn, John McKee, Sharon Wheeler, Mark Murphy, Geoff Skewes, Don Thomas, Kate Wilson, Vicki Donnelly, Ian Small, Helen Butcher, Donna and Malcolm Grace, Ken Hill, Bruce Hill, Malcolm Sing, Sally and Doug Jones, John and Judy Tonkiss, Darcy and Allison Richards. Riverina Club: Sue Fraser and Janice Reynolds Hills Club: Tony Ingersole, Helen Tudor, Karen Silvester, Jennifer Conquest Hunter Club: Rosemary Laing and Helen Huckerby Camden Club: Carol and Peter Fitzpatrick Canberra Club: Peter and Debbie Dunn Central West Club: Colin and Gaye Lees Goulburn Club: Robert and Damon Allport, Allen Smith, Alan Robertson Gulgong Club: Sam Williams Tamworth Club: Liz O'Brien, Margaret Neely, Chris Ward.

Thank you to all for your participation and support of The Royal Far West Health Scheme. The Liverpool Range Club would like to thank the Kootingal Bowling Club and the Werris Creek Bowling Club for their wonderful sponsorship, donating money along with allowing '100 Club' fund raisers and raffles. Geoff Skewes also deserves a big thank you for organising meat raffles and garnering a donation from the Werris Creek RSL Sub Branch.

With all this help, the Liverpool Range Club will once again be able to donate close to \$10,000 towards assisting local children and families.

We are looking forward to sharing our next journey together.

Donna Grace

CLUB NEWS from NEW SOUTH WALES



Trevor Brand giving a harnessing demonstration with Jeannie Eden's horse Calypso at the Bungendore Club's Training Weekend. Photo: J Brennan.

Bungendore Carriage Driving Society

THE BUNGENDORE CLUB held a very successful Training Weekend on September 16/17 at Witwood. Big thanks to everyone who braved the horrific weather on the Saturday, and to Trevor Brand for his Cones and Obstacles instruction that day. He also gave a harnessing demonstration. Many thanks too, to Sue Plath and Liz Pugh for their excellent Dressage instruction and critiques on the Sunday. We welcomed members from the Hills, Camden and Southern Highlands Clubs as well as Bungendore members. Everyone enjoyed a pot luck dinner in the warmth and comfort of the Willcoxsons' home on the Saturday night.

Club members Sarah Keevers and Tamara Abed attended the Level 3 CDE at Murrumbidgee in early September and had a successful time, with Sarah winning the Open Pony class and Tamara winning the Novice Large Pony class. The Club was also well represented at the Ellmore Club event over the October long weekend.

Bungendore is now in full preparation for the NSW CDE Championships which will be held at Witwood on November 4/5 2017.

Jen Brennan

Ellmore Carriage Driving Club

OUR LITTLE CLUB hosted another Level 3 CDE at the Engelsmans' beautiful property Hinemoa over the October long weekend. We were blessed with wonderful weather and the 15mm of rain the week before had the Warraderry Valley looking a picture.

Congratulations to all the competitors and well done to the class winners Auburn Carr (Novice Small Pony), Ben Rosetta (Novice Large Pony), Belinda Casper (Novice Horse), Kookie Engelsman (Intermediate Large Pony) and Sarah Keevers (Open Small Pony). An honourable mention must go to Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley who came to support the event after providing transport with *Peg* the wonder horse at a wedding all day Saturday. They were then up before the sparrows to come and drive the marathon with two pairs.

Anyone who has run an event knows how much hard work it really is to get them done. As a club we are very lucky to have a permanent dressage arena and six permanent obstacles at Hinemoa. There is no way an event can run without helpers, sponsors and officials so a massive thank you to all the people who came to compete, steward and officiate. If ever in Grenfell, please look up our sponsors who are so generous.

We have also had members doing brilliantly in the show ring, including our vice president Heidi Stevens who took out the Champion Harness Exhibit at a show at Bathurst on the long weekend, with the lovely *Clyde*.

We are looking forward to seeing lots of you in Grenfell for the NSW Dressage Championships in 2018.

Chuckie Radnedge

Gulgong Heritage Harness Association

THE SUNDAY FUNDAY at Gulgong Showground in August attracted some new people and saw instructional discussions about different types of harness, two-wheelers vs four-wheelers on training vehicles, balancing two-wheelers and training exercises to do. It was suggested that these Fundays be held in different locations so that people took turns to travel and horses could get used to working in new places. The October one was therefore held at Jim Gilbey's place and despite the light drizzle, training was done with several ponies. Donna Birchall managed some training with Jim's Shetland stallion *Regent*, whilst Shani Maude, a One Activity Member, was given help fitting harness to her small Shetland, before she long reined him and eventually drove him in one of Jim's joggers. After lunch the weather closed in, so everyone packed up early and went home.

Border Carriage Club

BORDER CARRIAGE CLUB hosted a Phil Marshall Clinic on 26 August 2017. It was well attended with 10 lessons booked for the day. Excellent feedback was received from all the drivers, and the club is looking to hold another clinic in December.

Since then a number of Border members have been competing at local Ag shows. Linda Porta driving her newly broken pony *Westbury Lady Mariette*, won Champion Non Hackney Horse/Pony at the Culcairn Ag Show and was Champion Driver at the Walbundrie Ag Show. Ian Rough driving *Possum* also had an enjoyable day at Walbundrie including winning the Male Driver class. Jayde Whitehead driving *Burrowa Achilles Gem* had a successful day at Albury Ag Show coming home with Reserve Champion Non Hackney Horse/Pony, first in the Pleasure Pony class and second in the Driver class.



Above: Linda Porta driving Westbury Lady Mariette at the Phil Marshall Clinic. Photo: J Whitehead.

Below: Kookie Engelsman competing at the Ellmore Club CDE. Photo: C Radnedge.



Marathon Action at Witwood

Photos: Linda Mace



Team McIntyre.

Rachel Haslau & Pemberton Chit Chat.

Michelle Jones & Lucy.

Lisa Harrington & Leflirtour Valet (Aspen).





Main photo:
 Chuckie Radnedge - Hudson Gucci & Hudson Vamoose.
 Down from left top:
 Lyn Callaghan (sponsor Scribblelegum) - Shepherds Hill Michael.
 Peter Dunn & Trinny.
 Sarah Keevers & Wooleen Miss Henrietta.
 Ross Carbery heading for the water.
 Centre top: Glenda Marshall & Lexi.
 Centre lower: Lorraine Cairns & Victor.
 Photos: Thank you to Linda Mace.

Amanda See &
Cherrington Harlequin.



Tor Van Den Berge driving
Carbery Estate Chibno & Carbery Estate Cato

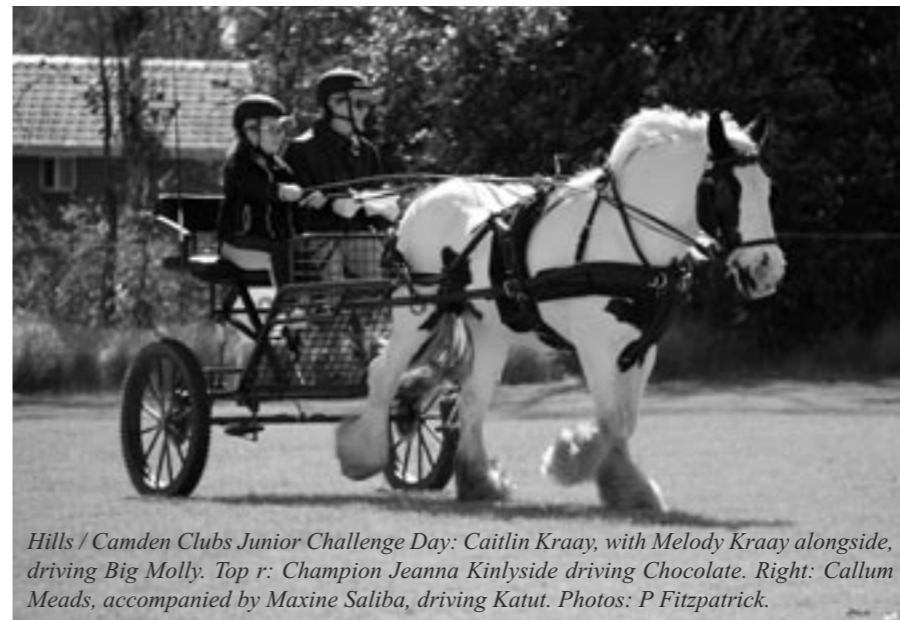


Tess Smith & Koriana Absolute Star (Buddy).

Phil Marshall - Ripple Brook Meg & Pepper



Auburn Carr & RB Jetstar



Hills / Camden Clubs Junior Challenge Day: Caitlin Kraay, with Melody Kraay alongside, driving Big Molly. Top r: Champion Jeanna Kinlyside driving Chocolate. Right: Callum Meads, accompanied by Maxine Saliba, driving Katut. Photos: P Fitzpatrick.



Hills District Harness Club

THE HILLS CLUB has been pleased to welcome several new members in the last couple of months – Alan and Helen Robertson, Andrew and Debra Mavin, Dee Webb, Wayne Webster and Eden Kellock. Whilst Andrew and Debra are yet to start driving, the others are all up and going and enjoying the ride.

The Hills and Camden Clubs hosted the third annual Junior Challenge and Sports Day at Rossmore at the end of August. The grounds were set up for a variety of activities – dressage, a pleasure course, a bending race, a walking race, a marathon obstacle and a cones course. It was a competition day for the juniors, but not for the others, who could do the activities without the pressure of competition.

Three junior drivers took part – Callum Meads (Camden), accompanied by Maxine Saliba, driving *Katut*, Jeanna Kinlyside (Camden) with groom Carolyn Kinlyside, driving *Chocolate*, and Caitlin Kraay (Hills) driving *Big Molly* and accompanied by Melody Kraay. Their horses were all quite different – *Chocolate* being a big brown Shetland, *Katut* a tall brown light horse and *Big Molly* a pinto Gypsy Cob with lots of feathers. All three drivers acquitted themselves very well over the six activities, with each coming first in at least one event. The overall winner and Champion Junior Driver was Jeanna Kinlyside, with Callum Meads being the Reserve Champion.

Other drivers there on the day were Belinda Casper with *Indi*, Andrea Casper with *Caesar*, Marg Moore with *Perry*, Dee Webb, Wayne Webster and Eden Kellock with *Bam Bam*, Rob Nichols with *Winston*, Jenny Conquest with *Pistachio*, Pam Fisher with *Fozzie*, Martyn Minns with *Hilwert*, Kim Glinkowski with *Marley*, Charlotte Hyles with *Ziva*, Carolyn Kinlyside with *Charlie* and Carol Fitzpatrick with *Jesse*. Of course no day like this can be run without a host of judges and stewards. They included Kim McGregor, Debra Mavin, Eddie Dobbin, Dennis Casper, Betty Lyons, Greg McDonald, Lew McDonnell and Janet Muspratt.

A couple of weeks later Hills held its annual Dressage, Cones and Mini Marathon Day at Rossmore. As usual, drivers could do all three sections or just some of the parts. Because the distance of the Mini Marathon is quite short (4km), and the competitors range a lot in height and required speed, it is traditionally run separately to the two MOs. This avoids hold ups at the MOs, and extra hassles for their stewards.

Drivers and their steeds were divided into two groups – under 11hh and over 11hh. Dennis Casper, Lynne Buckingham, Dee Webb and Eden Kellock were the in the small pony class, and Martyn Minns, Faye Cairncross, Charlotte Hyles, Emily Thompson and Sally Crowell were in the other class. It was good to see Faye out with her new pony *Brandy* and Emily with her new pony *Buzz*. Section winners were: Dressage: Eden Kellock and Charlotte Hyles, Cones: Dee Webb and Emily Thompson, and Mini Marathon: Lynne Buckingham and Emily Thompson. Emily was the Overall winner in her group, with Faye Cairncross second and Martyn Minns third. There were no entries to do all three sections in the small pony group. Unfortunately, the big ‘E’ took its toll too, but all

drivers thoroughly enjoyed the day. The judges and stewards were John and Jennifer White (dressage), Eddie Dobbin and Alan Robertson (mini marathon), Tiffany Cornall and Kiah Lyshak (cones), Mary Grant and Angela Eberle (MO1), Debbie Lyshak and Marg and John Moore (MO2), and Janet Muspratt (scoring).

The Club’s annual Social Night was held at the end of September, organised by Andrea Casper, and 20 members gathered at the Baulkham Hills Sports Club for a convivial dinner together.

Hills’ October activity was a Navigation and Observation Drive at The Vines Pony Club grounds at Oakville. A course of 2.6km was devised by Alan Ongley and Janet Muspratt using cross country tracks through the bush section of the grounds as well as the arena area. To make it more fun and less stressful, drivers paired up to share the navigation and observation responsibilities. The bush section of about a kilometre had to be done at the walk whilst there was the opportunity to have a good trot for the rest of the drive. Plenty of time was allowed between each pair’s start, so there was no catching up going on. Because the course was so short, everyone had a short spell before going out and doing it again.

Six drivers took part. Wayne Webster and Dee Webb with their new Standardbred *Sunny*, and Eden Kellock driving *Bam Bam* formed one team, Lynne Buckingham (*George*) and Angela Eberle with new mini pony (*Danny*) were the second team, and Emily and Mark Thompson driving *Buzz* and Julia and Taylor Cranwell driving *Peter* were the third team. Angela actually long reined her pony around the course, so got plenty of walking in for the day! She and husband Michael later put *Danny* in the sulky and drove him around, whilst David Cranwell also gave their young Clydesdale filly a drive afterwards. Others there on the day were Karen Thompson, who took lots of photos, Marion Lovelace, Christine Dunn and Janet Muspratt.

Everyone gathered for lunch and the drivers and grooms tackled the 14 Observation questions, based on what was seen on the drive. These proved a bit of a handful but everyone got some things correct. Wayne, Dee and Eden came out on top and won the chocolates! All agreed it had been good fun event and worth doing again some time.

Tony Ingersole and Helen Tudor (driving *May*), Karen Silvester and groom Vicki Quinn (*Ziggy*), and Jenny Conquest (*Pistachio*) all took part in the Liverpool Range Club Charity Drive in September, and thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Vicki Connelly and Max Ridge were all set to go but their pony *Mickey* went sore and they could not take him. They instead drove up to Manilla to visit the drive camp on the first couple of days.

Also in September, Belinda and Jessica Casper with Welsh Cob *Indi* made the nine hour trip from Terrey Hills on the northern outskirts of Sydney to Murrumbidgee Club’s Level 3 CDE. They arrived to a very friendly reception and thoroughly enjoyed the event. They found it a beautiful place to drive, with the going very easy on the horse. Share stewarding was a good experience too. To top it off, they won the Novice Horse class.

Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club

AS SUMMER APPROACHES we find the Tamworth area becoming drier and drier. However we are still out enjoying our driving. Chris Ward, Elizabeth O’Brien and Margaret Neely joined in the Liverpool Range Club’s Charity Drive to help raise funds for the Royal Far West. By all accounts it was a wonderful and well organised event, and enjoyed by the many who attended.

The Tamworth Club’s Carriage Driving Experience at Moonbi on September 10 was held under blue skies with a slight breeze blowing, making it absolutely perfect weather. All drivers were given the opportunity to improve their skills with dressage tests CC and Novice No.1 in the dressage arena. It was also a great opportunity to pick up pointers along the way. The cones course was second up. It was well designed to ensure everyone had fun but still needed to use their driving skills to negotiate the open but technical course. The marathon section was run over 3km with three obstacles, and was required to be done twice. Ponies and horses, from minis to standardbreds and a warmblood, relished the day. Many thanks to all the members who helped with the setting up and removal of the equipment, all done quickly and efficiently.

Congratulations to Elizabeth O’Brien who travelled many hours to sunny Goombungee west of Toowoomba on September 23/24 2017, to compete in the Queensland CDE Championships. The trip paid off handsomely with Liz and her pony *Prince Lonestar* achieving first overall in their class, after coming second in the dressage and first in both the cones and marathon.

Of particular interest to Standardbred enthusiasts, the Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association NSW and Harness Racing NSW will be holding their State Championships at the Tamworth Showground on March 17/18 2018. As well as led and ridden classes, the program includes lots of harness classes including driven dressage. For more information and the program, have a look at their Facebook page.

Lizzette Ferguson

Camden Harness Club

CAMDEN CLUB was well represented at the Hills / Camden Junior Challenge and Sports Day at Rossmore at the end of August. Experienced junior drivers Jeanna Kinlyside and Callum Meads performed very well and were the Champion and Reserve Champion Juniors overall. Other Camden drivers who drove in the non competition sporting activities were Pam Fisher, Martyn Minns, Charlotte Hyles, Carolyn Kinlyside, Carol Fitzpatrick and new member Kim Glinkowski, whilst Greg McDONald and Lew McDonnell ran one of the activities.

Charlotte Hyles, Sally Crowell and Martyn Minns also competed in the Hills Club Dressage Cones and Mini Marathon Day in early September. Carol and Peter Fitzpatrick took part once again in the Liverpool Range Club’s Charity Drive also in September, where Carol drove her Standardbred mare *Jesse*, instead of her pair *Louie* and *Ned*.

On September 16/17 three Camden Club members, Charlotte Hyles with

Camden Club junior driver Jeanna Kinlyside receiving dressage instruction at the Training Weekend at Witwood. Photo: C Kinlyside.



Ziva, and Carolyn and Jeanna Kinlyside with *Chocolate* braved the cold conditions and ventured down to Witwood for a Training Weekend hosted by the Bungendore Club. The instruction encompassed cones, obstacles and dressage. Saturday was cold, blustery and at times damp, but Sunday dawned to a beautiful spring day with a light breeze and warm sunshine, making happy horses and even happier humans. Everyone enjoyed a pot luck dinner, with shared catering, on Saturday night, and then watched videos of carriage driving overseas. Many thanks to the coaches for the weekend – Trevor Brand, Sue Plath and Liz Pugh. A lot was learnt, and events like this are recommended to all members. As Trevor said, “We are all learning every day and one can always take home something new and helpful”.

Another member, Maxine Saliba, has also had some driving tuition lately. She went down to Bundanoon for a few lessons with Bram Chardon and has spoken highly of Bram’s suggestions on how to improve the performance of her horse *Katut*.

Hunter Horse Driving Society

THE HUNTER HORSE FESTIVAL on 19th August 2017 at Cessnock Showground was a showcase of equestrian based groups and businesses, as well as a huge car boot sale, with the opportunity to buy, sell or swap any horse related equipment. The Hunter Club was involved in this event for the first time this year. It was a great chance to raise the profile of the club, and show the community what fun carriage driving can be. The day was very windy, yet the drivers and horses from Hunter did a marvellous job. Well done to Helen Huckerby, Michelle Ashbridge and Kylie dos Remedios for representing the club so well.

In mid September Helen Huckerby and Rosemary Laing attended the Liverpool Range Club Charity Drive, along with their ponies *Ruby* and *Tinker*, and in early October Rosemary went down to Marrar to help run the



Above: Kylie Dos Remedios at the Hunter Horse Festival at Cessnock. Photo: Heuys Photographs. Below: Anna Cross, new junior member of the Hunter Club. Photo: C Fitzpatrick



annual Reedy Creek Endurance Event. *Tinker* was left at home this time, to rest on her numerous endurance driving laurels.

The weather from all reports was lovely as members gathered at Stroud for the monthly rally day, which happened to be our annual ‘Come and Try Day’. These days allow people who are interested in carriage driving the opportunity to come and learn more about driving and about the benefits of ACDS membership. They also can have rides in sulkies with some of our experienced members. The day saw the club gain a new junior member. Anna Cross, who has already been a fantastic groom at the Round Hill Mini Enduro for the last two years. We all warmly welcome Anna to the Hunter Club.

Planning is underway for the Hunter Club calendar for 2018. Members are full of good ideas and 2018 looks like being a great year for the club.

Julies Cook

Southern Highlands Carriage Club

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BUSY driving in many events organised by different clubs for the Spring season, as well as being involved in hosting our major program, the Bram Chardon Coaching Clinic, held from 3-11 October 2017.

As usual, a week of lessons spread over the period was enjoyed and much appreciated by ACDS drivers from NSW and South Australia. A Victorian driver unfortunately had to cancel at the last minute due to her pony going lame. More than 20 drivers took part in the clinic, with all of them indicating their keen desire to participate again in Bram’s early 2018 clinic. Four Southern Highlands Club members, Tracey Ellis, Yvonne Wood, Elva Macpherson and Faye Cairncross, were amongst the group.

Thank you to the Club members who helped in many ways to make this clinic a success. Thank you too to the participants who have once again shown their appreciation of the effort the Southern Highlands Club puts into providing training opportunities for ACDS drivers. Bram also conducted a two day clinic at Greenvale in Victoria on this trip to Australia.

Yvonne Wood

LATEST NEWS! Tracey and Murray Ellis are grandparents! Emily Grace arrived safely and all are doing well. Better get another pony, Tracey! Tracey travelled to the Murrumbidgee CDE at Murrumbidgee with *Louie*. She drove a lovely dressage test after her coaching with Phil Marshall, but was pipped on the post, by two points overall, by Tamara Abed, and finished in second place in the Novice Large Pony class. By all reports this event was outstanding, so well done Murrumbidgee. Another Southern Highlands member, Sue Plath, was there as a dressage judge and Head of the Ground Jury. Sue is also officiating as Head of the Ground Jury at Canberra Club’s Level 3 CDE at Cootamundra in late October.

My new pony *Brandy*, aka *Bamborough Royal Beau*, had his first outing by showing his skills, or lack thereof, at the Hills mini CDE day at Rossmore on September 10. Fellow members John and Jennifer White judged/pencilled the dressage, and a fun day was enjoyed in lovely weather.

The next weekend I took both my ponies to Witwood for Bungendore’s CDE Training Weekend. *Brandy* got the bad day. Saturday’s weather was terrible but Trevor Brand persevered bravely to give us tips and schooling in cone and obstacle driving in blustering wind and icy sleet. Buckeroo got to do dressage and more cones in beautiful sunshine on the Sunday. Sue Plath and Liz Pugh ran the school on that day. These types of training programs are so helpful and enjoyable. A big thank you must go to the organisers for their efforts.

Buckeroo put all this preparation into practice at the Ellmore Level 3 CDE held at Hinemoa on the October long weekend, and came third in the Large Pony class. His eyes were bulging all weekend at the abundant green grass in the area.

Club plans for 2018 involve helping the Bungendore Club with the CDE Nationals at Easter, running the NSW Show Driving Championships in May, having an Indoor Qualifier in winter and holding another Mini CDE ‘Teams’ Event on the October long weekend. The Club is also planning three Phil Marshall (ACDS Accredited Coach) Clinics to be conducted between the Bram Chardon Clinics at the beginning and end of the year. The dates for these clinics will be available shortly.

Faye Cairncross

Canberra Carriage Driving Club

AFTER THE CHAOS of being double booked for their new Murrumbateman venue and appearing to be losing out altogether, the Canberra Club did its best to put a promising Level 3 CDE together, but at another new venue, Garry and Judy Harris’ property Coromandel at Cootamundra. ACDS members responded in kind with 25 entries received at closing date. At the time of writing all is in readiness under the watchful eye of Technical Delegate Trevor Brand. This event occupies an important place in the NSW CDE calendar as it provides a dress rehearsal for the NSW CDE Championships a fortnight later at Witwood, the Willcoxson’s property at Braidwood.

A number of Canberra Club members enjoyed participating in Ellmore Club’s Level 3 CDE at Hinemoa at Grenfell at the end of September, including Debbie and Peter Dunn, Tess Smith and Tony James.

Goulburn District Horse Drawn Vehicle Society

ROBERT AND DAMON Allport, Allen Smith and Allan Robertson recently attended the Charity Drive organised by the Liverpool Range Club, in the Manilla and Somerton districts. The roads were good and the scenery magnificent despite the countryside being very dry. A good time was had by all who attended. It was well organised and a great effort by the Liverpool Range Club.

After a week’s spell for horses and drivers, Robert and Damon were joined by Kimberly Allport, who was now on school holidays, and together with Allen Smith, they competed in the Marrar Endurance Event, conducted by the Reedy Creek Club. Robert won the five day Full Enduro in the horse section driving *Hickory Park New Penny*, and Kimberly, driving *Hickory Park Thelma*, with her dad Damon as groom, won the five day Half Enduro in the horse section. Allen Smith placed second in this behind Kimberly. Kimberly also won the Junior Driver award.

The Goulburn Club’s annual Three Day Endurance Event at Yalbraith near Taralga NSW is now on the calendar for next year. It will be run on 27-29 January 2018. This is proving to be a very popular event for regular endurance drivers, and a great way to experience endurance driving for those who haven’t tried it before. Contact Robert Allport on 0427 916 524 for more details.

North Coast Carriage Club

THINGS YOU HAVE LEARNT over your harness journey that you wish you had been told beforehand. More suggestions sent to Heidi Naylor from members of the Harness Enthusiasts FB page:

- Horses are great levellers
- Learning to feel your driving horse via the reins is completely different to feeling your horse when riding
- Never yahoo your pony on after going through gate 20 of a cones course!!
- When things go wrong, stay in the vehicle. Don’t let a loose horse and vehicle become somebody else’s problem.
- Make sure your reins are actually buckled before you take off !
- You do not have to justify to others your decisions regarding how quickly you or your horse progress. Be confident enough to say ‘No, not today’ or No, not here’. Encouragement is wonderful but you will be the one to pick up the pieces if you exceed yours or your horse’s training and ability.
- When driving in harness, always maintain contact on both reins, never have a loose rein.
- Always check the tie downs of the vehicle on the ute before taking off!
- A shiny paint job is no guarantee that a vehicle has been restored properly, or even safely
- Expect the unexpected from even the most seasoned harness horse.

Central Coast Carriage Driving Club

THE NEWLY FORMED Central Coast Carriage Driving Club got off to a great start with a well attended rally day at its grounds at Coorabong in August. Its next event on the calendar is a Scurry Cones Competition on November 19, with a good number of drivers already indicating interest in attending. Katherine Egorov is one member who is putting in some practice in preparation for the day. Katherine’s brother Peter has recently set up a Facebook page for the club for which the committee is very grateful.



TPR steward Sharon Beattie, with penciller Phil Rosetta, checking a horse at the Murrami CDE. Photo: S Beattie.

Temora Carriage Club

SHARON BEATTIE has been busy doing TPR duties at CDEs during September and October. Her first assignment was at the Murrumbidgee Club's CDE at Murrami. The marathon was held on a lovely sunny day, with a cooling breeze, and heart rates were well within the limits, showing that the competitors had prepared their horses and ponies well for the first CDE of the season. Sharon then officiated at the Ellmore Club's CDE on the first weekend in October. Again she found a very fit range of horses and ponies. Still to come at the time of writing is doing TPR work at the Canberra Club's CDE at Cootamundra in late October, with her sister Veronica Chown pencilling for her, and then at the NSW CDE Championships at Witwood in November.

In September Sharon, together with Keith Phillips and a friend, took the Harden Miss Show Girl in the Harden Show grand parade. Braedan Chown helped out on the ground holding horses and being the general go to person.

In mid October Temora Club members gave rides to the public at the Mary Gilmore Weekend at Ariah Park.

The Club is hoping to fit in a pleasure drive soon, and invite along some potential new members.

As something different, Sharon and Rachele Beattie recently went with friends to Altina Wildlife Reserve at Darlington Point near Narrandera. After doing a mini guided walking tour, they all climbed into wagons pulled by Clydesdales, for a bigger tour of the privately run zoo. It is set out in paddocks like the Western Plains Zoo. They travelled in convoy to each paddock, where they would stop and watch the animals being fed, whilst the drivers would talk about the animals.

The zoo has the most successful breeding program in Australia because of the restricted visits of humans. Other zoos have people wandering around all day, but at this zoo the animals only see the horses and wagons for 5 – 10 minutes twice a day at feeding time, and then have the rest of the day to themselves.

Sharon relates, "When we stopped beside the lion enclosure, the lions roared just at the first horse. I found out later that this horse was nervous of the lions and the lions knew it. The horse was probably placed at the front so she had room to move. You may ask 'Why get that horse to pull a wagon each day past the lions?', but how else could she become desensitised like the other horses? There were four wagons, so she had the other horses nearby to give her confidence."

Everyone found the zoo visit really worthwhile. For anyone interested in going there, it is essential to book ahead.

Riverina Carriage Driving Society

TWO MEMBERS went on the annual pilgrimage to the Liverpool Range Club's Charity Drive. They were Janice Reynolds driving *Red* and myself driving *Banda*. Janice and I look forward to this drive every year as it is attended by such friendly and welcoming people. The added bonus is that it supports the Royal Far West Children's Charity. There were fantastic drives over the week covering a total distance of 223.6km.



Above. On the drive at the Altina Wildlife Park. Photo: S Beattie.



Above: Tamworth's Margaret Neely at the start of the Liverpool Range Charity Drive at Manilla. Photo: E O'Brien.

Picnic lunches, good food nightly bonfires with a drink to keep out the cold – perfect!

The annual Reedy Creek Club's Enduro at Marrar started on the following weekend. This was a great follow on event as the horses were fit from the Charity Drive, so I decided to give it a go with *Banda*. I had a fantastic time. I entered the Half Enduro running over the full week. This involved doing a morning drive only, each day. I was amazed how *Banda*, an Andalusian mare, handled doing the 157.1km in a total of 8hrs 1min, doing an average speed of 19.6km per hour. An added bonus for me was winning the prestigious Reedy Creek Club Enduro damper making competition, with a feta, bacon and chives scroll damper. It must have been good, because there was none left when I went to have some!

Another Riverina member, Graham Ryan, drove his Clydesdale gelding *Buster* over the three days of the long weekend, as a pleasure driver, to see what endurance driving was all about. Everyone was impressed to see *Buster* moving along at a great rate. I am sure Graham will attend more Enduros, as he really enjoyed the experience.

Congratulations to Kimberly Allport for winning the Half Enduro in 6hrs 56min for an average speed of 22.4kph, and also winning Junior Driver. The full results of the Enduro are on the Reedy Creek Facebook page and also on the NSW ACDS website.

Riverina member, Michael Jones took his wonderful heavy horses to the Barellan Heavy Horse Weekend at the start of October. The sight of his pair pulling a line of six furbies was spectacular.

Next year the Riverina Club is holding a tour and lunch at Monte Cristo at Junee NSW, to celebrate the Club's 40th Anniversary. A date will soon be set and full information circulated. An invitation is formally extended to all past and present members plus anyone else who would like to attend.

Sue Fraser

Murrumbidgee Carriage Driving Club

THE CLUB HELD ITS FIRST Level 3 CDE at the Murrami Recreational Grounds on September 9/10 2017. The committee together with members of the Murrami community worked for some time before the event, building two new showers, painting obstacles and getting the grounds and course in top shape.

Phil and Kerrie Rosetta camped at the grounds for the week leading up to the event and battled freezing cold and very windy days to set up the course and finalise all the preparations for the competition. A small hiccup on the Thursday was rectified by Phil and Ben Rosetta, and then competitors started rolling in.

There were 18 nominations and everyone was very impressed with the high standard of the grounds and facilities. Mr Ray Herrmann, the neighbouring landholder, kindly let us run Section A of the marathon on his property, and competitors reported that it was the best marathon course they had ever driven on, having a smooth even surface, that was soft on horses' legs.

The club was blessed with two perfect spring days for the event. The Grounds Committee organised by Max Douglas catered for breakfast and lunch, with the biggest 'with the lot' hamburgers imaginable. The local hall committee also stepped up to bake a perfect roast lamb dinner followed by dessert on the Saturday night. During dinner we ran a trivia game organised by Chris and Luke Burns. Tracey Ellis' table, 'the Grey Mares', won the prize of a gourmet hamper. A continuous raffle was also run sponsored by Yenda Producers. Over 50 prizes were on offer and everyone was a winner. The campfire was a popular spot for everyone, too, during the evenings.

The overall winner of the Alonga Waterfront Cottages accommodation and boat hire package was Lorraine Cairns. Winner of the Novice Small Pony was Auburn Carr with Tess Smith second. Tamara Abed won the Novice Large Pony with Tracey Ellis just over one point behind in second place, and Ben Rosetta close up in third place. The Novice Horse was won by Belinda Casper, with David Cockcroft second and Peter Dunn third. The Open Pony class was won by Sarah Keevers, with 95.31, the second best score of the competition, whilst the Open Horse went to Lorraine Cairns with her overall winning score of 79.06. The Introductory Multiples class was won by Robyn Schmetzer, followed by Mark Peel in second place. Mark drove a lovely pair of Welsh Cobs owned by Lyn Dominish, in what was their first competition. Each first placegetter received a bag of Coprice Pellets donated by Sunrice, Leeton.

We would like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the event so successful. Alonga Waterfront Cottages, Sussex Inlet, Casella Wines, Scribblegum Publishing and Rawlinson and Brown sponsored the Obstacles. Scribblegum Publishing also printed beautiful posters and flyers that were distributed as advertising for the event. In addition, Yenda Producers, Griffith Feed and Grain and Debortoli Wines donated prizes. Special thanks also to Glen Malone, a Murrami local, who helped erect the new obstacle, painted two obstacles and supplied 50 star posts for the marathon course. Another to thank is Kathy West who volunteered her time cleaning and stewarding the dressage arena. Finally thank you to the competitors who made the effort to come along, making it a great weekend for all. See everyone again next year.

Robyn Schmetzer

Reedy Creek Equestrian Club

FINE WEATHER and great company was the ideal setting for the Reedy Creek Club's Endurance Event at Marrar. Added to this was the amazing help of Ray Roach, Alan Ongley and Rosemary Laing. You really don't know how to thank people who contribute so much so willingly, but thank you so much.

Robert Allport driving *New Penny* and Tony Ingersole driving *May* tackled the Full Enduro for Horses covering about 60km a day. *New Penny* was the eventual winner. In the Half Enduro for Horses, which covered around 30km per day Kimberly Allport drove her superbly fit mare *Thelma* to be the eventual winner. Allen Smith was in second place driving a powerful Standardbred called *Buster*. Alan is enjoying retirement which should give him more opportunities to take part in these events. Sue Fraser was in the same class with her beautiful Andalusian mare *Banda* and was in no way disgraced to be a few minutes behind in third place. All these horses finished with heart rates well below the required 60bpm. Linda On-



Riverina Club members Graham Ryan and Sue Fraser at the Endurance Event at Marrar. Photo: A Ongley



Sue Fraser, Kimberly and Damon Allport and Robert Allport waiting to start at the Marrar Endurance Event. Photo: A Ongley.



Junior driver Kimberly Allport, with her father Damon, driving *Thelma* at the Marrar Endurance Event. Photo: A Ongley.

gley was the only competitor in the Large Pony class. Linda drove *Avanti*, who also completed the distances with really pleasing heart rates. Kimberly Allport was the winner of the Junior Driver Award.

We were pleased to be joined by David Cockcroft from Victoria who had nominated for the Mini Enduro. Unfortunately the other two nominees for the Mini event had to withdraw at the last minute, but David and his horse *Eddie* well deserved their win. Better still, David is keen to run an Endurance Event in Victoria. We are hoping to get there to participate.

The Blakeleys took their horse pair and John Moyes and I took our pony pair to the Bram Chardon School at Bundanoon, and what a wonderful experience that was. We are so lucky to have access to that level of instruction and owe a tremendous thank you to all the people who make it possible.

Kath Cole

CLUB NEWS from QUEENSLAND

Queensland State Driven Dressage Championships 2017 & Park Drive, Caboolture

THE QUEENSLAND State Dressage Championships were held on 20 August 2017 at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre, Caboolture. The event turned out to be a great success despite some unfortunate setbacks.

As usual, our Dressage Convener Helen Baskerville ran a very professional event that ran on time. Competitors were very appreciative of this fact. An Excel scoring program specifically designed for this event meant that within five minutes of the last competitor finishing their test all scores were posted, quite remarkable. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our scorers and volunteers for giving us their valuable time. Your combined efforts made the day a great success. A special thank you goes out to Graham Camac, Jill and Loretta Seary for their assistance in marking out and setting up a very nice dressage arena. I would also like to thank the competitors for the way in which they presented themselves and their horses for these Championships. The high standard of presentation was noted by a number of people.

Our normal dressage arena had to be moved from the main oval at QSEC to the warm up area beside the ridden dressage arena because of a damaged surface caused by show jumpers. This proved to be advantageous to us as the ground is much more suitable for driven dressage. The smoothness of the arena was noted by a number of drivers.

When it came time for presentation of ribbons all the competitors presented themselves and

their horses immaculately. Well done to all of you, it looked fantastic.

Final results read as follows: Singles: Preliminary No.2 - Champion, Vivienne Camac. Elementary No.2 - Champion, Deanna Hibberd. Preliminary No.3 - Reserve Champion, Deanna Hibberd. Elementary No.3 - Reserve Champion, Vivienne Camac. 3rd - Jan Young. 3rd - Sue O'Brian. 4th - Linda Schultz. Intermediate No.3 - Champion, Deanna Hibberd. Multiples: ACDS No.(B) 2014 - Reserve Champion, Vivienne Camac. Elementary No.2 - 1st, Tor Van Den Berg. 3rd, Bronwyn McAdam. Elementary No.3 - 1st, Tor Van Den Berg. Champion Overall: Vivienne Camac. Reserve Champion Overall: Deanna Hibberd.

Finally I would like to thank our two judges, Lyn Callaghan and Debbie King, who both did a great job of judging as indicated by the closeness of their scoring comparisons and of course our sponsors, Scribblegum Design and Printing for the supply of all the beautiful V-sashes presented to the various winners, the large advertising posters that were distributed to various businesses within the area and the small brochures also handed out. A very generous sponsorship indeed, thank you.

Jim Cassidy

Top photo: Vivienne Camac, Overall Winner and Deanna Hibberd, Runner Up. V Sashes donated by Scribblegum print. Right: Bronwyn McAdam, Monga Park Whiskey. Photos on this page - Jim Cassidy.

More photos on the inside back cover.



Above: Dianne Londrigan. Right: Vivienne Camac. Below l: Sue O'Brien.



Above r: Tracey Bavinton. Below l: Jill Seary. Below r: Lynda Schultz.



THE CABOOLTURE Carriage Club hosted a park drive held at the Queensland State Equestrian Centre on 2nd September 2017. The club had spoken to the Caboolture Historical Village about the idea of running a park drive in conjunction with their Flag Day Festival and with their approval of the idea we set about arranging this event. The whole idea was to showcase and publicise carriage driving in our local area. The Historical Village advertised the event on their Facebook page and other various media outlets, so on the day we had quite a few spectators which is what it was all about.

The club secretary Helen Baskerville set about preparing all the necessary paperwork to run the event and went to an awful lot of trouble decorating some of the clubs portable marathon obstacle panels with flowers and vines to try to replicate some form of park guard affect. It looked fantastic and gave the drivers orientation points to drive around. With the help of our club members we also set up a cone course which was purely designed for precision driving not timed.

Although there were only eight entries they all presented themselves beautifully dressed and vehicle sparkling, which of course is what a park drive is all about. The horses also were presented in show quality and many of the spectators had the opportunity to get up close and speak to the drivers regarding their turnouts. It was great to see the drivers speaking to members of the public as this is what we wanted to happen to try and promote carriage driving with in our area.

At the end of the day prizes and ribbons were presented to the various winners and I think everybody went home feeling that it was a well worthwhile event. Many thanks has to go to our judge Glenys Miller who did a great job of judging the Park Drive.

Plans for another Park Drive next year are now on the horizon and we will look forward to having a bigger and better day.

CLUB NEWS from TASMANIA

THE TDHA authorised two southern training days recently which were designed to assist Stephanie Clark in her training schedule for the NSW CDE Championships in November. Both were held at the Huntingfield Pony and Riding Club at Howden (near Margate) which boasts some serious facilities with two railed sand dressage areas each 80m x 60m and a sandy/clay cross country course with sufficient close jumps to negotiate some well-optioned marathon obstacles.

The first was held on 21st September and the second on 9th October. Stephanie attended with her horses *Solo* and *Troy*, with Matthew Starr as groom and Suzanne Betts assisting/coaching. The first session involved an inspection of the course and selection of two group jumps for use as marathon obstacles which were flagged, together with several other jumps that were yellow flagged as safe options for 'in-out' or 'turns'.

With the course to themselves, the horses were warmed up and taken around the course twice, the first as a training run and the second trip in 'competition mode'. Apart from a few tree roots the flow of the course and spring of the ground were ideal and the gathering finished with a cold lunch and no cuppa (due to the microwave in the float not working) but big smiles all round.

On the second outing – the final before Stephanie was to head away – there were other users on the ground with eight doing cross-country in the morning and a further 12 expected for dressage training at 12 noon despite believing she had an exclusive booking to ensure no issues with other horses taking fright at the carriage. So first duty of care was to delay the dressage riders by an hour once advised of their intended use, then speak with each rider, parent and coach in the morning to work out a schedule of use.

Stephanie would use the dressage arena first whilst they were on course, then rest the horses for a cross-country exclusion zone between 12-12.30pm when media would possibly attend. This worked well, except for the fact Stephanie's horse *Solo* was more attentive on the ridden horses than on her driven dressage. But Suzanne assured her there were

'moments of glory' in the work-out, which was concluded with a quick cones course driven calmly and clear.

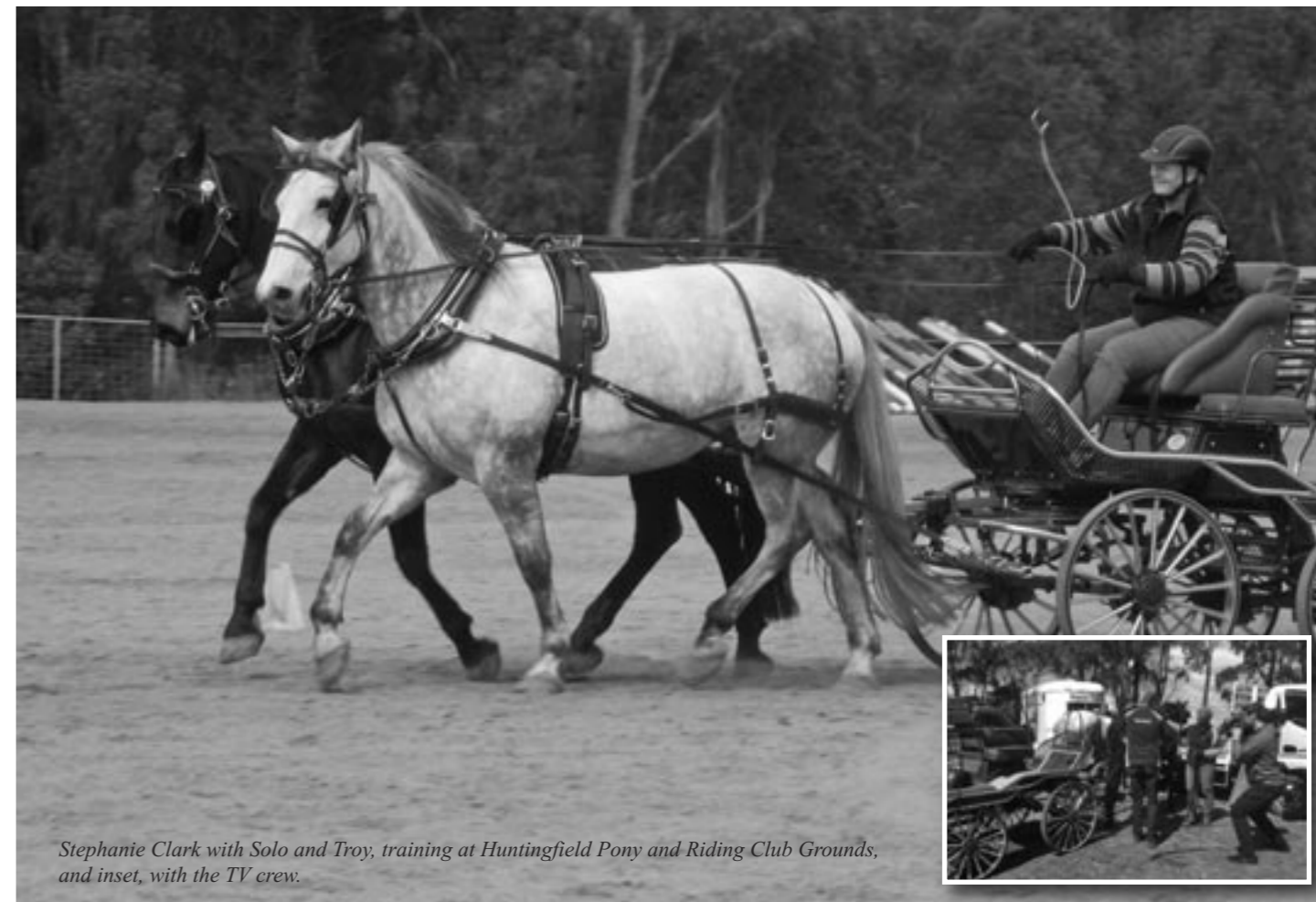
Just before midday the media did attend – WIN TV, Southern Cross and The Mercury/Tasmanian Country so it was a flurry of interviews before Suzanne took them out on course and positioned them at the first obstacle. With the decision having been made to repeat the same obstacles as the previous training day but not flagging them so as not to confuse the ridden horses.

Solo and *Troy* did a nice run around the first obstacle (tyres dressed up as pigs and cows) but repeat footage was required. As they headed past the dressage arena, Stephanie slowed right down as not all ridden horses were inside and a few scattered. She advised she would be doing another lap at speed and the coach nodded.

Repeating the obstacle then farewelling Southern Cross media, the horses were walked whilst Suzanne set the others up around the water feature where they were unlikely to get run over. With the horses keen by this stage and knowing what was required some great footage was taken as Stephanie got the pair to negotiate the tight turns on this selection, including a fishtail and drift on a sandy section which resulted in some 'wows' and screams from those gathered. Matthew was later found to be nursing a cracked rib!

When the horses were walked back to the truck there was another interview and footage taken of Stephanie and Matthew unharnessing but dressed up as if we were harnessing up instead. The horses were electrolyted, watered, walked, hosed off and yarded with water and feed whilst the team breathed, laughed and enjoyed a hot drink, homemade pizza and sultana loaf before packing up and heading home!

Thanks go to the HPRC Committee for allowing the use of the grounds and to the TDHA for endorsing the training days to enable insurance cover. Whilst both were a complete success, it is just such a shame that the end result for Stephanie and *Solo* was not so positive.



Stephanie Clark with Solo and Troy, training at Huntingfield Pony and Riding Club Grounds, and inset, with the TV crew.

CLUB NEWS from VICTORIA



Jenny Heath at the Oz Trec Day.

Bellarine Harness for Pleasure Club Inc

BELLARINE MEMBERS have been out and about showing successfully at Adelaide, Melbourne and Geelong Royal Shows, the Victorian Indoor Championships, and the first CDE for the season at Koonoomoo.

August 19 & 20 – Our Indoor (Outdoors) Competitions were very well supported, the weather gods were kind, everyone enjoyed a great weekend. September 24 – A strong westerly wind had the flags whipping and cracking at our annual Oz Trec, adding another level to the skills challenges. Horses and drivers did a good job with the wind which made the egg and spoon challenge particularly difficult.

October 15 – Our Harness Gymkhana was a good opportunity to warm-up before the local Geelong Royal Show harness classes on the following Sunday. October 22 - Geelong Royal Show - plenty of members supported our local Royal Show, showing both horses and donkeys, stewarding, and judging.

November 11 & 12 - Longwood CDE - BHPC was well represented by Liz Lawrence and Nicole Linic both driving Pony teams, and Ned Andrews, Christa Jones, and Ruby Lawrence all driving single ponies. It is great to have Longwood back on the CDE calendar.

Congratulations to all our drivers and their support crews. Thank you to all those members who volunteer to steward for without the all-important stewards there would be no competition.

November 18 & 19 - Phil Marshall lessons and on Saturday evening BHPC's Annual Christmas Party with a Trivia Quiz.

December 2 & 3 - A very successful Driven Dressage weekend was held at Inverleigh.

Club members are looking forward to their Level 3 CDE to be held at Inverleigh on February 24 & 25.

Madeline Bentley

Benalla and District Horse Driving Club Inc

THE BENALLA AND DISTRICT Horse Driving Club had the pleasure of providing its training event conducted by Mike Thill at Oxley Recreational Reserve on the weekend of 7-8 October. Drivers had a great time getting some extra tips from Mike. They also loved the cones course. The Saturday Night meal in the clubhouse was a treat with Sue Wind's chocolate mousse the talk of the event.

The weekend had an international flavour from now honorary club members Marge and Bob Thomas who came all the way from Canada. Residing near Union Ontario they shared stories and compared notes about their experiences in Canadian and US CDEs with club members. Bob breeds and drives Morgans. Where we call them 'Grooms' in Canada Marge is the team 'Navigator'. Our Canadian friends enjoyed the family atmosphere and luckily there was only a few bursts of rain over the two days which didn't spoil things too much. Bob was also very



Donna Bevan, Mike Thill and Molly at Oxley Training Weekend.

appreciative of being allowed to shadow Mike while he was giving some of his lessons. Bob and Marge were so impressed they are trying to organize for Mike to come to Canada. It was great to share our event with such a lovely couple.

The club has scheduled a training clinic at Oxley Recreational Reserve with Mike Thill on 7th and 8th April 2018. We are also going to run another Oztrec + on the 5th and 6th of May. For further information contact Bev Bresanello on 03 57662257.

Jack Wind

Central Highlands Pleasure Harness Club Inc

CENTRAL HIGHLANDS Pleasure Harness Club certainly had members out and about this spring. Members Des Stewart and Hilary Billet competed at the Royal Melbourne Show. Des came away with first places with her pony *Gracedale Belladier* in Brake Turnout and Light Delivery, and a Reserve in Light Delivery, and Hilary scored a first place with 'Bella' in another class.

Several of our members went to support the Maldon Agricultural Show in October. Members Laraine Blume, Prue McKechnie, and Jan Moore competed at the Driven Dressage Qualifier at Greenvale. This was the debut competition for Jan's pair of mini ponies, who managed some quite respectable scores in Preliminary Multiples. And certainly not least, Hilary Billet competed at the VIC Indoor championships. For many of the rest of us, we had to be content with some pleasure drives at the club rallies.

Eileen Perry

Jan Moore driving Tinkerbell and Mason at Driven Dressage at Greenvale.



Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club Inc

MEMBERS OF Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club have been saddened by the passing of one of our cherished members, Liza Baird, after a short illness. Liza was the kind of person that had a 'glass half full' attitude and, combined with her bubbly personality, made it a pleasure to be around her. She will be truly missed.

The club conducted its second Phil Marshall Clinic for the year over a two-day period. We had a combination of new and older drivers, new horses and some drivers trying out new equipment. Phil's knowledge and experiences are invaluable and his method of delivering good quality training has been well accepted by all club members who attended. We have asked Phil to look at his diary to enable future clinics to be planned.

We would like to thank those members from Mornington, Gippsland and Southern Cross clubs for inviting our club members to attend their club rally days and pleasure drives. The camaraderie between members of our clubs has been gratifying and certainly emphasises the social and professional outlook of all members involved.

It is the show season in Gippsland and EVPHC members are vying for the 'Trevor Coster Award'. This award was instigated to remember one of our past members and to encourage members to participate in show driving events at our local shows. It is open to all club members and they



Heidi Murphy and Garth. Julie Wilson is the Groom.

have to attend three of the four nominated Agricultural Shows at Traralgon, Sale, Bairnsdale or Omeo. Points are accrued in specific classes and this determines the winner. The winner will be announced at our Christmas breakup.

EVPHC and Southern Cross Club are to co-host a Charity Drive for the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia. This drive is to be conducted over the Australia Day weekend and will be around the Glengarry, Heyfield and Maffra areas of Gippsland. This is a very worthwhile cause and was instigated by Leanne Prosser from EVPHC and Jane Reid of the Southern Cross Club. Contact details are on the Vic Branch Calendar.

A committee has been formed to put together one of our biggest challenges. The club is to host the Victorian and the National Driven Dressage Championships over the one weekend, 14/15 April 2018, at Maffra. Those who have organised such events before would appreciate the amount of work and effort required to ensure that these championships will be memorable for the right reasons. We have a committee of six enthusiastic people and we would like to thank Vic Branch and the Federal Council of the ACDS for their support. It is very much appreciated. Any person with any queries regarding these events should contact Cheryl Dowling on 0414 772 806 or catara23@live.com.au

At our last AGM, club members unanimously voted one of our members, Chris Woolan, to be a Life Member of EVPHC. Chris is a foundation member of the Club and was in attendance at the inaugural meeting, held at the Bruthen Hall on 8th August 1990. He was a member of the team that initiated the original club constitution and the subsequent affiliation with the Australian Driving Society (now the Australian Carriage Driving Society). He has held numerous posts on the Executive Committee of the club over the years, is currently a committee member, and still participates in club events and continues to assist the club in any way he can.

The award was granted to Chris in recognition and sincere appreciation of outstanding loyalty and dedication to the Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club. This honour recognises his commitment to the club and its ideals.

Thank you all and safe driving.

Tom Dowling



Jane Christie and Ambleside Talisker.

Gippsland Lakes Harness Club Inc

GIPPSLAND LAKES have been using our club grounds for training and we were invited to Neil Stevens' property to see his collection of original vehicles. The Surveyor's cart is amazing, the seat is big enough to take four of us. We welcome *Ambleside Talisker...Tubby* to friends, owned by Jane Christie, the second Gypsy Cob to join our club.

Our members attended our local shows Sale, Bairnsdale and Omeo with members being successful in winning a few Reserve Championship ribbons. The plan now is the Driven Dressage qualifiers and the Oz Trec Days.

Our oldest member Laurie Richards turned 91 at the start of October. He is still driving ponies. Does any other club have a senior member or older member still driving?

Roberta Earley



Ted Bradley and Rainy.

Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society Inc

GIPPSLAND PLEASURE HARNESS Society has continued to provide on-going rallies on the third Sunday of each month. In August we held a navigation drive around Catani. There were only five participants but those who did take place had a great time finding all the answers to the questions on the drive.

In September, we were lucky enough to go to Tooradin Estate for the day. We had a good turn up and enjoyed all the many tracks around the property. We set up an MO in the trees along the way, giving members a chance to prepare for the upcoming CDE season. A great lunch was had by all and we took our ponies home exhausted after a long day.

Congratulations to new club member Tina Minty who competed successfully at the Royal Melbourne Show with her pony, *Tooravale Take a Chance*.

In October we had the first Gippsland Team Challenge Cup day. We had four teams of three horses/ponies/donkeys putting their equines through a range of events designed to test the horse's/pony's/donkey's obedience, agility and fitness whilst having fun without any pressure. The Safety First team consisting of Paula Grieves with *Fox*, Jenny Cummins with *Caddy* and Janis Craven with *Morag* managed to win the day.

We welcome six new members to our club including Margaret Webster, Annmarie Logan, Vickie and Melanie Mantel, Tina Minty and Natalie O'Connor. We hope that they will come along to our monthly rallies and

enjoy the friendships within the club and represent us at the competitions held throughout the year. We also welcome Cheryl Sheddson and Susan Tselepis as social members to our club. On a sadder note we say goodbye to our Vice President Bonnie Wood who has decided to retire from carriage driving. Bonnie has been a great stalwart for our club over many years and we will all miss her very much. We thank Bonnie for all the work she has put in for the club.

We also say goodbye to our donkey friends, Ann and Graham Berrett and Jenny and Peter McNabb who have joined Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club. However, we have not completely lost them; they are staying on as social members. We hope they continue to bring their donkeys to our rallies and continue with the good work of educating our ponies to work with donkeys.



Katrina Westerhoff and Miss Prim at Grampians Club Day.

Grampians Carriage Drivers

THE LAST FEW MONTHS have been a mixed bag for the members of Grampians Carriage Drivers. Winter saw several members turn their ponies out for a break, while others battled colds and inclement weather to continue driving in some form or another. The AGM was held in September with a new executive committee voted in and members looking forward to experiencing new driving adventures across all disciplines in the coming 12 months.

October again saw members stewarding for the Great Western Great Escape Ride weekend. The 2017 ride was well attended with approximately 170 riders plus support crews spent the weekend of October 7 & 8 camping at the Great Western Race Course and venturing out to explore the local area on three mapped rides.

Several members have spent the last couple of months breaking and/or educating new ponies to harness and the club is looking forward to seeing more of Prim, Harri and Bugsy at upcoming rallies. Other members have slowly been bringing ponies back into work and preparing for competition. Margie Bowen recently competed at the Skye Park Australian Classic held at Longwood with first time groom Jenn Tumney. Despite some beginner mistakes by the groom they placed fifth overall in the novice pony class. Other members attended as spectators and it was a delight to see them in the crowd when approaching obstacles during the marathon phase.

The development of the new Equestrian grounds at the Elmhurst Recreation Reserve continues to move forward with new fencing to be erected and water connected in the near future. The Grampians Carriage Drivers would like to take this opportunity to thank the Elmhurst Recreation Reserve Committee for supporting the club in the establishment of a dedicated equestrian area on the Reserve grounds, assistance with sourcing grants for works to occur and Margie Bowen for keeping the GCD club informed of the development progress.

November has seen members attend a mini cones and obstacle training rally organised by Sandra Fleming. Sandra once again created some very inviting obstacles and cones for members to drive; with several different tracks on offer depending on the level of difficulty drivers wished to drive. To top it all off a lovely 3km drive was mapped out allowing ponies to return to the straight and narrow after the twists and turns of the cones and MOs.

Fast approaching is the Grampians Christmas rally where the club will

once again host a clinic by ACDS coach Phil Marshall. Club drivers have keenly snapped up the lessons on offer and look forward to demonstrating improvements made since the last time Phil visited Elmhurst in June.

The Grampians Carriage Drivers would like to wish everyone a Merry and Safe Christmas filled with Family, Frivolousness Fun, and of course driving.

Jenn Tumney and Katrina Westerhoff

Lakes and Craters

THE LAKES & CRATERS Horse Driving Club have enjoyed some bush driving through Irrewillipe, a drive through Alvie, Warrion area and Yeodene recently. A couple of members have been unable to participate for a while, so it was great to see them return. Our Christmas breakup at Bambra shall offer more laughs and fun as we endeavour to play golf. Some further fun and mayhem after lunch and then a combined effort for a luxurious camp dinner as the festivities continue. It is always a great chance to get together and laugh so our sides hurt!

Karyn Kelly



Above: Lakes and Craters members on the Irrewillipe drive.



Above: Tracey Tuohy competing at Cootamundra with Lorabella Harmony where they won their class.

Mornington Peninsula Pleasure Harness Club

Three intrepid travellers from Mornington Peninsula Pleasure Harness Club ventured a little further than normal up the Hume to turn left at Gundagai and attend the fabulous Canberra carriage driving event at Cootamundra recently.

The outstanding hospitality that was on offer all weekend started well before we even got there with grooms organised for our pairs and large pony drivers. The event venue was presented in pristine condition, green rolling countryside mowed, manicured and complete with beautiful restored carriages dotted around the grounds creating a really lovely atmosphere.

Over the weekend a really enjoyable friendly event unfolded complete with white picket fences around the dressage arena and a great fun cones course. There were some really ingenious, great to drive, MOs on the marathon which was inspected by all competitors ‘conga line style’ on Saturday afternoon (much to the amusement of the neighbours).

We were fed from the barbecue ... of course only the best home grown

beef! Even when the crowds had packed up and had left for home, our no doubt exhausted hosts were still smiling and invited the stragglers who were staying on Sunday night in for a shower and to dine on the delicious leftovers under the chandelier.... the most glamorous CDE meal ever!!

The event seemed to effortlessly run like clockwork all weekend (we all know that means there were dozens of people working furiously behind the scenes) and congratulations are in order for the organisers and hosts for a job well done.

Mandy Lawrence

Northern Country Carriage Drivers Inc

THE CLUB has been very active. We have attended a variety of events including Indoors , CDE's and Shows. Our drivers have made our club proud in all disciplines. We have been busy at Bunnings BBQs and applying for grants which has allowed us to purchase a dressage arena and materials to build three portable MOs. Thanks to all club members for the work they have done. A big thanks to Arthur Walter for all the planning and work he has done. Our grounds are coming along nicely with new toilets and a shower block not too far away.

Vicki Stevenson

Oaklands Horse and Carriage Driving Club

OAKLANDS HOSTED THE Indoor Championships at Kalkallo on Sunday 10th September, 2017. The weather was perfect and a special thank you to everyone who assisted at this event in every task varying from officials, stewards, scoring, catering and just in general helping out when and wherever needed. This all ensured the day ran like clockwork. An extra special mention to Di Boardman from Skye Park Equine Tailors who put her business name to this event. Her on-going generosity is valued and appreciated by both Oaklands and also the recipients in each class.

With Spring now here, the Club recently hosted a very well supported Bram Chardon instructional clinic held on 30th September and 1st October, 2017 at Greenvale Equestrian Centre where the participants gained some first-hand experience form Bram on the dressage tests that may be driven this season. The Club also hosted two well attended Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers – 28/29th October, 2017 at the same venue.

Oaklands was well represented at the recent combined NSW CDE Championships and Level 4 events held at Witwood. On the Official side of the event Peter Lee was TD, Peter Harkness was the Course Designer, Cheryl Dowling POJ and Tom Dowling the Cones Judge. From the competition side, club members Phil and Glenda Marshall, Michelle Jones, Karen and Mark Rogers, all did very well winning their respective classes. Each of those members plus Vicky Debra Fuller and Peter and Vicky Lee also competed at Longwood.

The user group at Greenvale have commenced the construction of a new permanent water obstacle at the Greenvale grounds which should be completed in time for use at the ACDS Level 2/FEI 1* & 2*/ EA CDE planned for 28th & 29th April, 2018.

Cheryl Dowling

Pioneer Country Carriage Drivers

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN MORE ACTIVE through the Show season. Some have competed and others judged and/or stewarded at regional and local shows. Well done to all members who contributed in any way to keeping harness classes alive at ‘Aggie’ shows.

The CDE season is now in full swing, and we congratulate our members who participated at the recent Longwood event. Well done to Gwenifer Hack who judged the Novice Dressage, and Tash Pettingill who competed in Novice Horse. We are really proud of you both.

Members are looking forward to getting together before Christmas. We have a day of lessons with Phil Marshall planned. A number of our members have booked their session/s, and others are happy to sit on the fence and soak up what knowledge they can from there.

Christmas wishes to all members. Enjoy your family celebrations. Drive carefully on the roads, and make time to join our activities early in the New Year. Take good care.

Margie Morgan



Most horse people in Victoria would know or know of Patto and his legendary status. This charming photo is John Patterson's grandson, Matthew Patterson at Royal Melbourne Show.



Skye Park AUSTRALIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING Classic - 2017

KEEN ANTICIPATION was written on the faces of the 53 competitors and their supporters as they arrived at Longwood for the 2017 Skye Park Australian Carriage Driving Classic on the 11th/12th November. Due to the redevelopment of the oval and other necessary work, Carriage Drivers had not had the opportunity to compete at Longwood since the 2016 Easter Nationals.

As usual competitors and supporters came from throughout the country, including a contingent from the Apple Isle. Glenda Holland and Tamara Butler, together with their horses and support crews, arrived on the Monday fresh from their adventures at Witwood, and enjoyed the break at Longwood. My dear friend Jill Cawsey, also came up from the southern island and was instrumental in encouraging other Tasmanians to make the trip to Longwood. Jill, together with Mara Hayler and Fiona Martin, ensured that all ran smoothly in the office over the weekend. Thank you so much ladies.

Seven four-in-hand teams were entered in the event, bringing the total number of horses to over ninety. Organisers and Competitors were grateful that the majority of the pre-event vet inspections could take place on the Friday evening. Equine Vet Stacy McGregor, together with TPR Steward Mike Thill worked tirelessly under the watchful eyes of the Ground Jury, and all horses were deemed fit to start the Competition.

Dressage on the main oval has always been a highlight of the 27 Level 1 and Level 2 CDEs the club has hosted at Longwood. Many seasoned Longwood competitors were champing at the bit to try out the new arena surface, as were a whole new band of first time competitors to Longwood – and none were disappointed, resulting in some lovely tests being witnessed in both arenas. Ground Jury President Madeleine Bentley, together with Dot Willcoxson, presided over the Intermediate and Open Singles, the Open Multiples and the very big class of Introductory Multiples, whose drivers took the opportunity to introduce their teams and pairs to a competition with a Novice Dressage Test. Gwenifer Hack and Mike Thill judged the 28 Novice Singles entries and both arenas ran like clockwork during the entire day.

In the Open and Multiples Arena, Lorraine Cairns driving *Victor*, and Michelle Jones, whose horse *Lucy* was having her first outing as an Open horse, both performed beautifully. Other stand-outs were Sarah Keevers, Dawn Walter and Rachel Haslau whilst in the Introductory Multiples, Elizabeth Lawrence, having her first ever team competition drove beautifully. Elizabeth's children, Ruby and Ned (driving at his first CDE) both enjoyed considerable success in their classes throughout the event and this augurs well for the future of Carriage Driving in Australia. In the Novice Singles Arena, NSW drivers Pam Salter and Tracey Ellis, Kim Norris from South Australia and Longwood Club's new Secretary, Yvonne Brown, all performed very well.

Following the Dressage, Cones were driven under the expert eye of Cones Judge, Kim Filmer. Double Clears were driven by Pam Salter, Tracey Tuohy, Peter Dunn, Kim Norris, Tamara Abed, Sarah Keevers, Lorraine Cairns, Michelle Jones and Karen Rogers.

Being Remembrance Day, all proceedings came to a halt at 11am for a brief, but moving observance of this special day.

Saturday evening's dinner was held outdoors in beautiful balmy conditions, with over 100 competitors and friends enjoying the scrumptious spread provided by the Longwood Community Centre. Remembrance poppies adorned the tables and around the venue. The carriage driving fraternity, together with many spectators, took the opportunity to visit the Shrine of Remembrance Photographic Exhibition in the main hall throughout the weekend.

Sunday morning again produced perfect weather for an early start to the



Rachel Haslau, 1st overall in Pony Four-in-Hand at Longwood.

Marathon. Thirty stewards had volunteered to help on the marathon and all 30 arrived and were briefed by our TD Peter Harkness. One cannot speak too highly of the admirable job done by each and every one of these amazing volunteers.

Section A was mainly held on private property and the golf course with some country roads, whilst the walk section was entirely on the golf course. Section E all took place within the Recreation Reserve with, as usual, the themed obstacles in close proximity to each other, spectator friendly, and with wheel chair access. All seven themed Obstacles produced some spectacular driving with competitors enjoying the variety of options which were presented by Course Designer, Graham Martin.

Obstacle 1 - Castle Creek Corner was very generously sponsored by Castle Creek Motel, Euroa and provided competitors with a smooth, multi-optional warm up obstacle. Obstacle 2 - The White Hart Hotel, Longwood appeared more difficult, but it actually drove well with only one competitor unfortunately being eliminated. Obstacle 3 - Strathbogie Strategy – Horse Capital of Victoria, again provided a variety of options with all competitors completing this obstacle without problems. Obstacle 4 - Skye Park Splash – A chance for all drivers to truly show their skills, and many did, much to the delight of all spectators. Obstacle 5 - Maygars Hill Maze – Always a technical obstacle, had been opened up to allow for the newer four-in-hand teams, so drove well for all classes. Obstacle 6 - Barrier Beach, a visually appealing tropical paradise sponsored by David Cockcroft of Barrier Beach Resort, Espiritu Santo, Vanuatu, drove well, thrilling the cheering crowd of spectators. Obstacle 7 - Australian Carriages, caused no problems to drivers, who could make for the finishing line with a feeling of success.

Only one class came down to the wire in the final Overall Placings. In the Horse Pairs only one point separated the winner, Byron McIntyre



Above: Alexander McGuire, 1st in Novice Horse.

Top right: Michelle Jones, 2nd overall in Open Horse.

Centre right: Ned Andrew 1st in Marathon and 2nd Overall in Novice Small Pony.

Bottom right: Ross Carbury 3rd overall in Introductory Multiples.

Photos - thanks to Andy Schwarcz.

from Chuckie Radnedge. Full results are available on the ACDS Vic Branch website under Results.

Many generous sponsors and supporters contributed to the success of the Classic, most notably Di Boardman from Skye Park Rugs who goes way beyond the norms of most sponsorships. Di very generously provided beautiful rugs to all Overall Class winners, which included a rug for each horse in Multiples Classes; and lovely prizes for place getters. Not to forget the myriad of raffle prizes Di always brings along! Longwood General Store; Natalie's Hairdressing Euroa; Ausrural Euroa; Williams Garage Euroa; Landmark Euroa; Thomson's Floors Euroa; Kilmore Truck & 4 x 4 Kilmore; Kilmore Auto Electrical Kilmore; D & E Newnham Euroa; Horse land Warrnambool; Thomson's Home Furnishings Euroa and Vicky Lee (Ray's plum puddings) were all generous in their support.

Huge support was also provided behind the scenes by scorer Anthony Martin, who, as usual, worked tirelessly with TD Peter Harkness and the Ground Jury to ensure that scores were accurately and punctually posted for competitors.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the 2017 Skye Park Australian Carriage Driving Classic an outstanding success, especially the Longwood Carriage Driving Club members, The Longwood Community Centre, the Longwood Fire Brigade, the Tubb family, all officials, stewards and above all Di Boardman from Skye Park Rugs.

Jenny Martin - Event Director



CLUB NEWS from WESTERN AUSTRALIA

OUR 'GARDENING WEEKEND' Finally started at 10 am on a Saturday morning after more than a year having the plans for this event lying around in my house, we finally found a date.

Each driver drove the Novice #2 test twice. Newly appointed dressage judge Dianna Jolie did a fantastic job, and we loved the positive notes on the test, Judy Pope probably had writer's cramp with 30 tests.

Di Hunter had a little problem so we took her mini to the water MO with our pants rolled up and shoes and socks off and a towel on hand. With time, patient encouragement and some strange movements we got him in, and all of this paid off the next day.

That night we had a delightful 3 course meal - and dessert well, Holy Moses! Niamh and Tracey and their garden gnomes did an outstanding job: freddo frogs in blue jelly, chocolate mousse with earth and worm's poking their heads out of it, apple flan tart that looked like a flower, and fruit salad garden including a picket fence. After all of that we still had the strength for some fun games where the tears of laughter were plentiful and our stomach muscles had a good work out as well

The next day we did 4.5km with 5 MOs. # 1 was in the pines trees where there were all kind of scare crows placed here and there. # 2 the pencils, I did make some native greenery arrangements but the wind had a good time with them. # 3 kings park is a very open driving area between a lot of trees so instead of going from A to F, Jorgen Nielsen made it in to a 12-cone course that drove beautifully. # 4 was the lady bugs and # 5 the water with leaping frogs. All the ponies went in even if some of them tried to stay on the edge so their hoofs stayed dry.

We had some appropriate gardening prizes, Vera Sulc was the best dressed on the day and Janet Smith the most colourful. Thank you to all my garden gnomes for setting up and helping it run smoothly, 16 entries made me very happy indeed.

I will see you all at the next one

Doddy Goile /Nielsen



Di Hunter - Yarraman Top Montana



Tracey Delrae Hunter - Keeny Park Moolight



Vera Sulc - Master Ziggy and Harkwood Rosita Rose Petal

Step Back in Time Show

THIS YEAR'S Step Back in Time Show at Dwellingup was a resounding success, it was bigger and better than ever before, with Rosettes Garlands and prizes. As it co-insided with the Hotham Valley Steam Train Festival, I worked with their committee to coordinate the day. This meant that we had over a thousand visitors many of whom also came along to watch our Carriage Driving. They were fascinated by the horses, carriages and the costumes, and asked lots of questions about what they were seeing. The extra visitors also benefitted the RSL ladies, who once again operated the canteen, so they had a very good day.

We were asked to do a drive past the railway facilities to highlight the Era of the Steam Train, which brought many more spectators to our arena, which all added to the festive air of the day. The staff at the Hotham Valley Railway were also dressed in the fashions of the era, which complimented our drivers.

Our judge Mrs Val Blows from South Australia was impressed by the standard of the turnouts, and very ably judged our updated schedule, which included Off the Track and UK Breeds. These classes were introduced this year as we have a number of both Standardbreds and Welsh Cobs coming through our clubs.

I would like to give a very big thank to all our Sponsors, Alcoa, Audiomax, Nelloc Embroidery, Absolute Edge Media, Hotham Valley Railway, and Dwellingup Community, who helped to make the day such a success. Thanks also go to all those who helped in setting everything up, as without this effort the show wouldn't have happened.



Cherryl McCall - London Park Welsh Dragon
Photos: Fee Simpson



Wendy Oversby - Canterbury Ironman



Vera Sulc - Master Ziggy and Harkwood Rosita Rose Petal



Amanda Igoe - Black Cyril



Rose Carr and Jackie Turner



Dawn Maton - Mr Darcy



Niamh, Paul & Tracey Tester - Traplanda Quo Vadis



Sherone Clayton - Silverbrook Morgwyn



Jan Tilbrook - Narcoola Park Baldwin

Patron: HRH The Duke of Edinburgh KG KT OM GBE QSO AC



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Photos by Jim Cassidy. Clockwise from top left: Jill Seary, Euston Sunrise. Lynda Schultz, Rainmaker. Olivia Van Den Berg, Maitland Bae Darcy. Deanna Hibberd, De'Ben. Tor Van Den Berg. Carbery Estate Caro, Carbery Estate Chino. Sue O'Brien, Rainmaker. Deanna Hibberd, De'Ben. Jan Young, Cwmkaren Welsh Rhapsody. Jill Seary, Tatacka. Vivienne Camac Tarama Sanskrit



WELSH Ponies & Cobs

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Tracey Ellis' gelding of Section C Breeding KAEWING DYNAGWYNN (Fleur de Lys Alladdin x Meilland Gwyndolene by Rivington Gay Gordon) competing in the Marathon Section of the New South Wales Combined Driving Championships at 'Witwood', near Braidwood, NSW. Photo: Linda Mace

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