

AUSTRALIAN



Carriage DRIVING JOURNAL

VOL 49 ISSUE 156 JUNE 2018

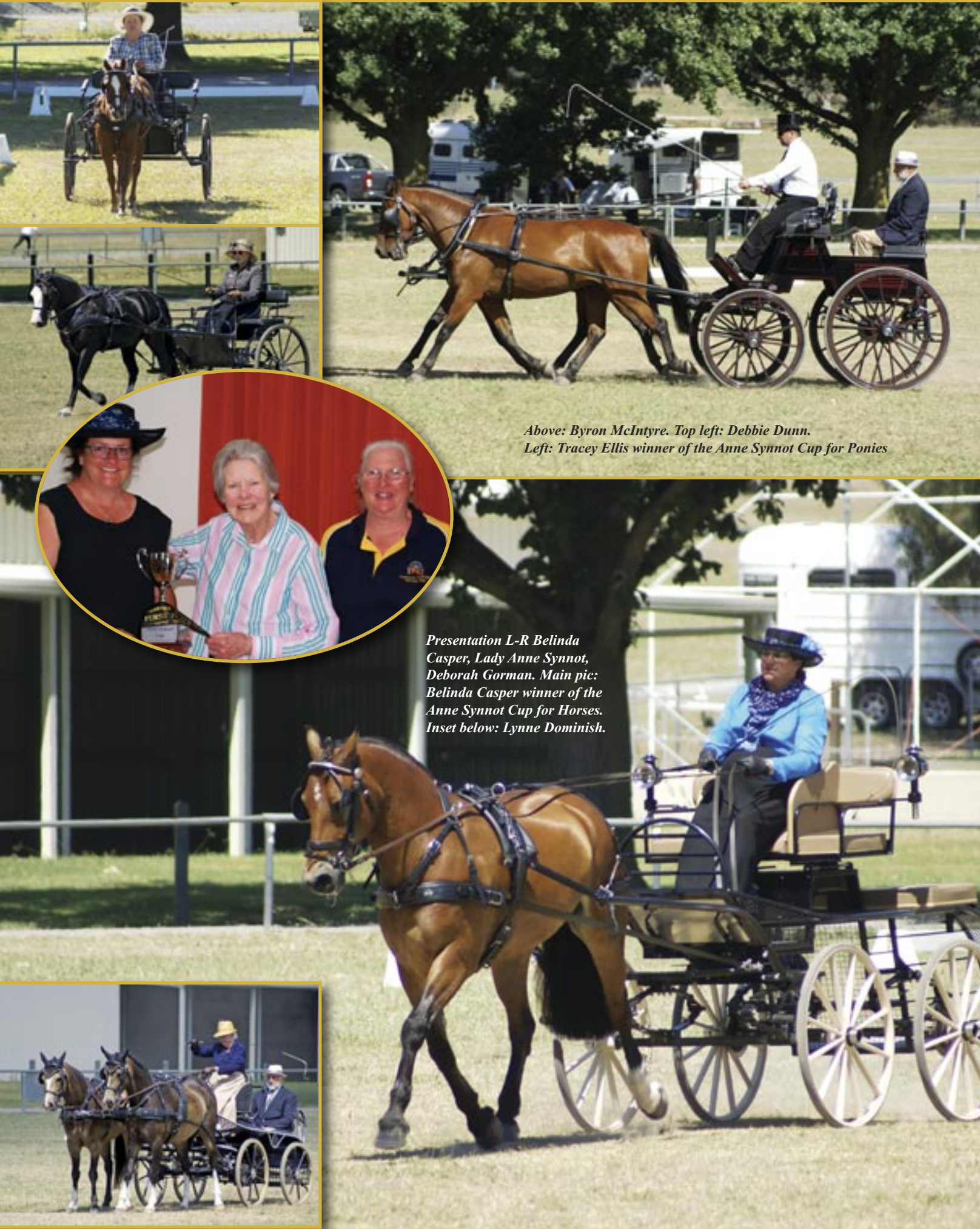
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Above: Byron McIntyre. Top left: Debbie Dunn.
Left: Tracey Ellis winner of the Anne Synnot Cup for Ponies

Presentation L-R Belinda Casper, Lady Anne Synnot, Deborah Gorman. Main pic: Belinda Casper winner of the Anne Synnot Cup for Horses. Inset below: Lynne Dominish.

Australian Carriage Driving Journal



Dear Members.

YOUR JOURNAL is now more pictorial than ever, and we can all be proud of the way it looks. Colour photography is a boon for our sport and the more we use it the better. The quality of the photos received for this issue has meant that we were “spoiled for choice” but it’s a great position to be in.

The exceptional National CD Championship at Witwood was an event of which everyone could be proud: the

organisers and officials of course, and the competitors who performed to their very best. As a humble spectator I was impressed that the standard of driving continues to improve. Almost every combination now show is the benefit of professional tuition, which wasn’t always the case. The focus and dedication now being applied to dressage lifts my heart.

Two key people are leaving their positions very soon. President Brendan and Secretary Sue have spared no effort or opportunity to put the ACDS in a sound position. I thank them for their commitment and wish to say it has been a pleasure to work with them. As they have to leave I am leaving too because it wouldn’t be fun without them. The newcomers will receive all possible help and support. I’ve been lucky to have the help of a great team of State Publicity officers so I hope they will stay with their jobs so that a seamless transition can be achieved.

Sincerely,

Judy Dwyer

Planning input sought for ACDS 50th Anniversary

Those of us who remember the fantastic ACDS 40th Anniversary events hosted by Southern Highlands Carriage Club at Bundanoon in 2011 will possibly be surprised to learn that the ACDS’ 50th Anniversary is only three short years away! Federal Council is seeking to appoint interested members to a working group whose task will be to carry out preliminary planning for 50th anniversary celebrations – possible events and activities, venues, organisers etc – all ideas are welcome but we need to start the planning process now.

If you are interested in contributing your time and ideas to the working group, please contact the Federal Secretary.

Front Cover: In an achievement unprecedented in Australia and possibly in any other Driving nation, Elizabeth Lawrence and her two children each won their class at the National CD Championship at Witwood.

Main picture: Elizabeth winning the Pony Team class with Carlyle Spartan, Carlyle Pound, Carlyle Danceman, and Carlyle Luke.

Upper left: Ruby Lawrence winning the Novice Large Pony class with Westbury Sabrina.

Lower right: Ned Andrew winning the Novice Small Pony class with Carlyle Sunday Best.

Congratulations to this talented trio.

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The AUSTRALIAN CARRIAGE DRIVING JOURNAL is produced quarterly.

The JOURNAL COMMITTEE is as follows:

Editor-in-Chief - ACDS President - Brendan Dwyer

Journal Editor - Judy Dwyer

Journal Production Editor - Chris Milvain

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The ACDS Inc Federal Council takes no responsibility for the opinions expressed or information submitted to the Editor. All submissions are subject to Editing.

DEADLINES: All panel reports, state news, articles and advertising (including accompanying graphics/ photos) must be submitted to the Editor strictly on or before the following dates: **Material due by: 15th January, April, July and October**

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President’s Report



WELCOME to the June edition of the Australian Carriage Driving Journal. Through discussions with our printers and Production Manager we have had an opportunity to give the Journal’s look a bit of a ‘freshen up’ with changes to the cover style and additional colour pages to take greater advantage of the terrific photos supplied by our very generous photographers. I hope you like the changes.

As well as being an important communication tool, the Journal is a valuable part of our marketing suite. We received some very gratifying comments on the last issue, which contained the Beersheba commemoration article, from non-members who were very impressed with the quality and content – so much so we received requests for additional copies.

This issue will be the last put together by our Managing Editor Judy Dwyer, who is retiring from the role; with the support of our diligent Publicity Officers and other contributors, Judy has worked hard over the last seven years to produce a very high standard magazine which reflects the wide diversity of activities conducted in the ACDS, and which provides a source of information, education and enjoyment (and a sense of connection) for members. On behalf of all members, I thank Judy very much for her efforts, and for a publication we can all be proud of.

With the focus moving to opportunities to promote and market the sport, and seeking greater opportunities for engagement with members, Federal Council has recognised that our existing Federal Website is no longer up to the task. Developments in technology mean that the current web platform itself is no longer capable of supporting what we want and need to do, so over the coming months we will be moving to a new website with enhanced and new features. I’d like to thank Kate Wholagan and Bernadette Lewis who have been leading this project and look forward to seeing the new site launched.

Over the last 12 months Federal Council has been providing some ad-hoc incentives for Junior Drivers participating in a range of disciplines. Recently I was pleased to be able to present Horseland gift vouchers to two young drivers. The aim has been to provide some encouragement to continue with their driving activities, however Council has recognised that a more structured approach to supporting Junior Drivers is required and we

Peter Lee

have some exciting developments in the pipeline – stay tuned for an announcement at the Federal Conference in July!

Our overseas-based drivers continue to do us proud; Boyd Exell won the horse teams at the Royal Windsor Horse Show, an exciting lead up in his WEG campaign. Janelle Marshall was recently well placed at a major event at Live Oak in the USA. Andrew Damsma is continuing to build on his knowledge and experience while working for Boyd, and competing in local events in the Netherlands when the opportunity presents. Gail Bain recently won the Advanced Single Horse class at the British Carriage Driving Ashfields National event, and has been selected to represent Australia at the World Singles Championships in the Netherlands later this year. I’m sure members will join me in wishing each of them every success in their respective endeavours.

This will be my last Journal report as ACDS Federal President; the past three years has had its share of challenges and successes, but it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as the Society’s President. I consider myself very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with a highly committed group of people on Federal Council – their energy, enthusiasm and passion for carriage driving has allowed us to successfully bring about significant (and necessary) changes to the way the organisation is managed. This transformation process means the Society is well placed to take advantage of future opportunities to promote and grow our wonderful sport. I am very proud of not only what has been achieved, but also the manner in which it has been achieved – with a commitment to respect, consultation and inclusion.

As the saying goes, “A person who feels appreciated will often do more than is expected”. I would like to acknowledge and thank all those who contribute to the running of the Society, no matter the role or function. There would be no sport without you and you can be equally as proud of the ACDS as I am. I look forward to seeing future developments in the organisation under new leadership.

Our Federal Conference and AGM this year is in Hahndorf, South Australia and I would be delighted to see you there if you can attend. It will be a great opportunity to contribute to the direction of the ACDS, catch up with friends new and old, and enjoy all that the picturesque Adelaide Hills has to offer.

Safe and happy driving.

Brendan Dwyer

Statement in support of Nomination for
ACDS FEDERAL VICE PRESIDENT 2018-2019

I wish to re-stand for the position at Federal Vice President 2018/19.

This will be my second year in this position and I feel that we are just starting to gain a footprint towards our Branding and Marketing. I would like to thank people that contact me and share their ideas and concepts. After much investigation our new website will be coming online very soon. This is our foundation. Then we start to build our brand.

I’ve enjoyed being on the Executive and gaining an insight into the governance of our Society. With excellent leadership from Brendan, the Federal Executive has done so much work from the management plan that has been a working document over the last three years. This document still has processes that need to continue to be worked on and I look forward to working with the new ACDS Executive and Council to complete these processes.

I’ve recommenced competing my mare Lexie and now with my partner Russell and Junior member in 2018, Brigid look forward to bringing out some lovely horses. I am also judging and on Ground Juries at upcoming events.

As there is going to be a lot of change over the next few months with new Executive members, I feel I would add benefit to have some history of what has been occurring.

I look forward to working the next twelve months on the our current business plan and establishing the marketing plan .

I hope that members feel free to chat and catch up in the beautiful Hahndorf resort in The Adelaide Hills in July.

Happy driving

Kate Wholagan

2018 ACDS National Conference
and Annual General Meeting
Saturday 14th to Sunday 15th July
HAHNDORF SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Provisional Timetable

SATURDAY 14TH JULY

- 8:30amConference Registration
- 9:00amWelcome to the Conference – Federal President
Federal Council forum and membership feedback on planning for the future
- 9.30amShowing / Pleasure / Historic Combined Forum
- 10.45amMorning Tea
- 11.00-12.30pmVisit to The Cedars - Home of Sir Hans Heysen
Guided tour of the house and Hans Heysen’s Studio
(At participants own expense)
Charter mini-bus to and from the property if numbers warrant.
- 12.30pmFree time for lunch and visit to Hahndorf Village
- 1.30pmRegistration - Federal Annual General Meeting
- 2.00pmFederal AGM
- 3.00pmAfternoon Tea
- 3.30 to 5.00pmPresentation: Applied Posture Driving
Presented by Annette Wilson
Rider Biomechanics and Posture Core Training adapted for Carriage Drivers
- 6.00pmPre-dinner drinks and nibbles
- 6.30pmConference Dinner

SUNDAY 15th JULY

- 8.00-10.00amFederal Council Meeting
- 9.45amCDE and Dressage Forum
- 11.15Morning Tea
- 11.30Dr Elizabeth Herbert, Adelaide Plains Equine Clinic
.Horses in Bushfires
- 12.30Federal Council Forum – Conference Feedback
Close of Conference by incoming Federal President

ACDS Federal Annual General Meeting – 14th July, 2018

At the close of receipt for Nominations and Notices of Motion for the 2018 ACDS Federal Annual General Meeting, the following have been received:

FEDERAL PRESIDENT – Peter Lee.
Nominated by: Karen Rogers. Seconded by: Lorraine Cairns

FEDERAL VICE PRESIDENT – Kate Wholagan.
Nominated by: Phil Marshall. Seconded by: Cody Marshall

In accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the ACDS, Peter and Kate will be duly elected.

As no nominations have been received for the positions of Federal Secretary and Federal Treasurer, the ACDS shall seek nominations up to and including at the Annual General Meeting.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

To consider and, if thought fit, to pass the following Resolution as a Special Resolution.

Special Resolution to amend the ACDS Rules and Regulations That: Clause 16.10 of the ACDS Rules and Regulations be amended to read as follows:

“A person may not hold office as Vice President or Treasurer for more than five consecutive years and thereafter is ineligible for election as any such office bearer for a period of one year. There is no term limit applicable to the position of Secretary.”

Supporting Statement

It is becoming increasingly difficult to find people to fill Executive positions. Removing the term limit for Federal Secretary may assist with filling and retaining people in this position.

Moved Douglas Willcoxson - Member 019N

Seconded Dorothy Willcoxson - Member 019N

NOTES FROM FEDERAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD MARCH 2018

- New WA State Delegate welcomed – Marg Langan.
- Incident Reports: One report only received since October 2017 Meeting. Look at incorporating a Safety Page in the Journal to cover ongoing issues we have seen in Incident Reports.
- ACDS Strategic Plan 2016-2018:
Various reports tabled are about providing State Delegates with information to take back to their States.
A number of identified actions from the Member Survey have been finalised.
Insurance information has been sent out to Clubs and the Website updated.
Need to identify the tools required to further improve consultation with the Members.
- Ground Jury accreditation: State Delegates to take back to Discipline Convenors that as well as attending a Clinic there is a practical component required prior to achieving accreditation.
- Recognised Officials Clinics are to be organised with the knowledge and involvement of the Training & Schools Subcommittee via State Convenors. Not a Club dealing directly with the presenter.
- Federal Council Induction Manual has been finalised and distributed.
- Australian Sports Commission: A comprehensive application seeking National Sporting Organisation (NSO) status for the ACDS was unfortunately unsuccessful. Council will review the ASC response and consider options.
- A draft Member Protection Policy (MPP) has been developed over the last 12 months as part of the ASC application. The MPP contains valuable guidance on areas such as member and organisational responsibilities, dispute resolution, child safety, inclusiveness etc and builds on the work done to date with Codes of Conduct etc. It is a lengthy document however and may be difficult to seek consultation on the content – updated version to be circulated to Council for a decision on best method of distributing for member consultation.
- Succession Planning: One Federal Convenor has indicated they are not intending to re-nominate for their position. Other four Convenors intend to re-nominate for their positions. Prospective Federal Office Bearers continue to be sought.
- Conduct at some State Branch Meetings is not ideal. State Branch Meetings are the ‘public face’ of the ACDS and need to be run fairly and impartially to ensure member engagement.
- An upgrade of the Federal Website is being investigated with quotes sought from suitable providers to develop a new site. Discussion on content and requirements allowed a design brief to be finalised.
- Discussion held on viability of appointing an Administrator to take on the Federal ACDS office management. Options to be further investigated.
- 2017-2018 Memberships: The revised Membership Renewal form allowed us for the first time to ascertain how many children/Grandchildren were attached to Family Memberships. Memberships are up approximately 4.50% nationally, though some States are down.
- ACDS/EA – Approach re Mutual Recognition of Officials’ Accreditation: Council agreed to further investigate the practicalities.
- Discussed the possibility of a new Membership Category to cover “Come and Try” days. Possibility of no fee required for these days instead of participating under a One Activity Membership. This was run past Affinity Brokers initially. Criteria and conditions to be developed.
- National Show Driving Rota tabled and passed:

That: Federal Council agrees to adopt the following National Show Driving Rota with a view to being included as Bylaw 7.4:

- 2018 NSW
- 2019 SA
- 2020 QLD

- 2021 50TH Anniversary - open for application
- 2022 VIC
- 2023 TAS
- 2024 WA
- 2025 NSW

Any State which declines to hold the National Championships shall automatically revert to the bottom of rotation list.

- Revision of 2015 ACDS CDE Rule Book: Draft proposals have been circulated to Federal Council; comments returned to Federal CDE Convenor.
- Graded Dressage inconsistencies & National Grading System: Letter sent to Federal Dressage Convenor requesting the Federal Dressage Subcommittee look at the matter and present suggestions/updates to Federal Council for July meeting.
- CDE National Championships Trophy Register: Lost trophy replaced and Trophy Register is to remain in the possession of the Federal Secretary. All unrepresented trophies to be returned to the Federal Secretary.
- Federal Vice-President to look into securing an Overseas Coach for 2019.
- Junior Development and Funding: Discussion paper suggesting a Junior Bursary tabled. A working group appointed to look into the matter and advise.
- ACDS 50th Anniversary – 2021: All Championships are open to Expressions of Interest. Call for members to form a working committee to look for ideas.



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Just in case:

Emergency Vet supplies to keep in your horse float.

IF YOU HAVE A VETERINARIAN that’s easily reached and proximal to your stable, it can be easy to take that kind of ready-care for granted. But if you travel with your horse, it can make sense to think like a Scout and always be prepared. That means carrying emergency vet supplies with you on your float whenever you leave home, whether to camp in the bush, or attend a show in a major city. It’s not a bad idea either to keep some basic supplies at your stable too. You never know when your vet could be out assisting with the foaling or in surgery, and you may have to wait for veterinary attention. The following are some tips for items you should pack on board, as well as other things to consider in the event of a health emergency.

It’s not enough to just carry the kit.

BELOW is a list of supplies you should think about having with you when you travel. However, merely having the equipment on board doesn’t guarantee it will help your horse. Ideally, you should take a course in emergency equine care through your local university or riding club, if it’s available.

Barring that, ask your vet if you can shadow him or her for a few days. Watch some online tutorials on administering care, and invest in a few basic veterinary volumes for horse owners. Make sure there’s a first aid manual in your kit too.

One of the things you should be able to do is handle a frightened or injured horse. Ask your veterinarian for some basic tips about doing this. Also, train your horse to get used to being handled and touched as much as possible, so that if an emergency arises, it won’t resist. Some ways to do this include:

- ▶ Schedule regular equine massage sessions for your horse.
- ▶ Perform mock drills just like emergency medical technicians who work on ambulance services do. Pretend to splint a leg or pack a wound. This helps you keep calm in real emergencies too.
- ▶ Take your horse’s temperature regularly. Racecourse horses do this on a daily basis, and it becomes no big deal to them after a couple of times.
- ▶ Touch sensitive areas on your horse on a regular basis: clean its eyes and nostrils, and check its feet every day.

What do you need to bring on your float?

IN ADDITION to any medical supplies, be sure to carry emergency contact numbers with you wherever you go. Equiluxe floats provide a sticker on one of your exterior gear bins, so you can write the information there. You can also carry a copy in your glove box and save them on your mobile phone. Make sure to have all your vet’s numbers, including after-hours contact information or an alternative vet if yours is not available.

It might be a good idea to also have the number of a reputable veterinarian in your destination location, if you are travelling far from home. Know the names and doses of any medications your horse takes on a regular basis, as well as any allergies to drugs.

Whilst you may be the world’s most cautious driver, accidents can happen due to other negligent drivers, road conditions, or debris on the roadway. Always carry the number for an emergency float towing company that can handle towing your float and possibly your horses too. A good towing provider should also be able to help find emergency stabling in the event you cannot continue travel after a breakdown or accident.

This list of supplies is a just a starting point. If your horse has any medical issues, be sure to include anything specific for its treatment, such as medications. Whilst you can purchase pre-assembled kits, it’s usually better to build your own.

Basic emergency supplies:

- ▶ sterile gauze pads in a variety of sizes
- ▶ disposable diapers and tampons (good for packing or padding wounds—tampons are treated to resist staph infections)
- ▶ medical tape
- ▶ vet wrap, cling wrap, elastic bandages, etc.
- ▶ topical disinfectant
- ▶ topical antiseptic
- ▶ roll-on insect repellant to keep wounds free of insects
- ▶ sterile saline solution
- ▶ iodine solution
- ▶ eye cleaner
- ▶ syringes
- ▶ bulb baster (for debriding large wounds)
- ▶ thermometer and lubricant
- ▶ stethoscope
- ▶ torch and penlight
- ▶ wire cutters
- ▶ scissors (at least one with blunt tips)
- ▶ tweezers and hemostat
- ▶ disposable gloves
- ▶ clean towels
- ▶ farrier’s nail puller/shoe puller
- ▶ duct tape
- ▶ twine
- ▶ buckets
- ▶ instant cold packs
- ▶ electrolytes
- ▶ pain medication
- ▶ tail wrap
- ▶ fly mask
- ▶ hoof pick
- ▶ hoof boot
- ▶ poultice
- ▶ splints
- ▶ extra halter(s) and ropes
- ▶ emergency veterinary care manual

Keep on top of your supplies.

IF YOU ONLY HAVE ONE HORSE, or if you travel with all your horses at any one time, you probably only need one kit. Keep it at the stable on a regular basis, and load it on the float whenever you leave home. If you leave some horses at home whilst others are travelling, however, you may be better served by having two emergency kits, with one staying on the float at all times and the other remaining at the stable.

If multiple people are using the emergency kit, be sure to have a policy to replace anything as soon as it’s used. Also, double check to make sure everything is intact before hitting the road, and keep a list of any expiration dates. This is what’s done on ambulances and hospital crash carts for human medications. Once something nears its expiry, make sure a longer-dated duplicate is added to the kit.

The most important thing you can do in any emergency is to keep calm. Take a deep breath and think for a moment before reacting. Your horse will absorb your confident ability to handle whatever has happened, and you will be able to manage the situation until any needed professional help is able to assist you.

Part 5 — Straightness which includes Bending

A circular black and white photograph showing a woman in a light-colored dress and hat seated in a horse-drawn carriage. The carriage is pulled by a team of dark horses. The background features bare trees and a fence, suggesting a rural or park setting.

ACDS Journal June 2018 7

WELL HERE WE ARE, heading for June with quite a few drives under our belt already. Most states have held drives and started the year well, but have eased up to very few on the horizon except for New South Wales who are powering on. Apart from club weekend drives, Fifield Enduro has been run, but was turned into a pleasure drive because of too many restraints imposed by police and council.

In May, 16th to 20th the Ladies Drive will be run by Liverpool Range Club at Spring Ridge. This will be the second year held and has become very popular with the ladies, building confidence and knowledge with maximum entries. The Brainchild of Vicki Donnelly and Christine O’Rourke.

We then have the Henry Lawson Drive, held by the Gulgong Club. It is held over one week, driving from Tooraweenah to Gulgong from 2nd to 10th June. This drive is the longest running Pleasure Drive in Australia



THIS PONY SIDE BAR BUGGY is understood to have been Dame Nellie Melba's personal vehicle. It was purchased from Gilltrap's Museum at the Gold Coast many years ago by Mr Bob Bone of Rochedale. It was loaned to a museum in Yeppoon and made its way back to Bob Bone's collection when the museum in Yeppoon closed. Bob sold the vehicle in July 2015.

The Buggy was made by Richard Spencer of Adelaide.

Dame Nellie Melba would travel from Europe to Australia, disembarking in Adelaide and this buggy was her mode of transport whilst in the city. She would travel from Adelaide to Melbourne on the train.

Dame Nellie Melba was born Helen Porter Mitchell on the 19th May 1861 at Doonside (now Richmond - inner suburb of Melbourne) into a musical family and became an Australian Opera Soprano, the first Australian to achieve international recognition as a classical artist on the world stage.

She returned to Australia regularly after she built Coombe Cottage in 1912 and was active in the teaching of singing at the Melbourne Conser-vatorium. With the construction of Coombe, Melba had somewhere to keep and use her own vehicles. One of her favourites was her pony phaeton drawn by her two favourite ponies. The story is, Melba would ask guests: "Try and guess the names of the ponies?"

When guests had finally given up Melba would tell them simply: ‘Try and Guess’ (or if you like, their names are Guess and Try)!

After many retirements Dame Nellie finally performed her last concerts in Australia in 1928; she left for Europe and later developed a fever in Egypt, which she never quite shook off. She returned to Australia, but died of septicaemia in 1931 aged 69 and was given a state funeral from

and this will be their 20th year held. This is quite a milestone. Originally held over two weeks, driving from Gulgong to Grenfell and reverse the next year. With a cook, cooks van, feed truck for horses, generator and water with 30 to 40 entries each year in its hey-day. It has now been reduced to one week due to logistics and numbers, and starts a weeks drive out of Gulgong, finishing with the Gulgong Henry Lawson Festival and Drive. I would highly recommend it and hope for big entries, this being their 20th year.

As we head towards the end of the financial year, I also ask all our Plea-sure and Endurance Drivers to support your state AGM and Federal AGM Conference this year and also look at taking on a position.

Our NSW Convenor, Robert Allport is progressing well with his treat-ment and we wish him well for a full recovery.

Peter Honeyman Federal Convenor



Scots Church, Melbourne, which her father had built and where as a teenager she had sung in the choir.

She was buried in Lilydale, near Coldstream, not far from Coombe Cot-tage which is still the private residence of Melba’s descendants, but houses a museum dedicated to her life and achievements.

Melba’s Buggy is presently seeking a new home which adequately re-flects its part in Australian history – if you are interested please contact Brendan Dwyer who can pass on further details.

RICHARD SPENCER CARRIAGE AND WAGGON
MANUFACTURING COMPANY

Courtesy State Library of South Australia

RICHARD SPENCER was born in 1839 in Preston, Lancashire where he was apprenticed at smithing in an engineering shop. Before emigrat-ing to South Australia he was also trained in forging but after his arrival in South Australia aboard the Adamant in 1863 he worked approxi-mately two years as a station hand in the Far North. On returning to Ade-laide he was introduced to wheelwrighting by a Mr. Barton whom he succeeded in business on the latter's retirement, and established in 1866 the enterprise which became known as the Richard Spencer Carriage and Waggon Manufacturing Company.

Fourteen years prior to his death Richard Spencer took into partnership his four sons, R.M., W.J., J.F.M. and A.J.M. Spencer.

Richard Spencer was an active participant in the early operations of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. A total abstainer, he was a long term member of the Independent Order of Rechabites. He died on 26 September 1916, pre-deceased by his wife by thirteen months. He was survived by his four sons and three daughters, Mrs. J. Maher, Mrs. M. Solomon and Mrs. L. Miller.

Show Driving Scenarios as published in the March 2018 Journal.

THANK YOU to the members who have contacted me with their thoughtful opinions about the Scenarios.

Here are my opinions.

I believe that as long as safety and risk management are given high priority, people should be encouraged to enter harness events, whether it be at shows, CDEs, dressage, endurance events or pleasure driving activities. This belief underlies all my opinions about these scenarios.

1. IN AN AUTHENTIC PERIOD TURNOUT class there are drivers with suitable ‘soft’ hats and others with helmets covered in material to match their outfits. Given that costume is worth 25 marks, but also keeping risk management in mind, how should this headwear be looked upon by the judge?

Anyone who chooses to wear a helmet when driving should be con-gratulated. The Sydney Royal catalogue specifies that ‘All persons riding a horse must wear approved safety helmets..’ I don’t believe that driving a horse is necessarily any safer than riding, so a driver wearing a helmet is in fact being very sensible.

In a turnout class, I would expect some effort be made to match the helmet to the outfit eg by covering with a suitable fabric, and perhaps adding a brim. With the scenario concerning an ‘authentic’ period turnout class, if the above effort has been made, I would take the hel-met to be a suitable ‘hat’, despite it being made of modern materials and not being strictly ‘authentic’. It would not necessarily score lower than the hats being worn by other entries.

2. SPECTATORS HAVE BEEN HEARD TO SAY, as turnouts enter the ring for a Period Turnout class, “That vehicle shouldn’t be al-lowed in this class” referring to vehicles such as viceroys (including wooden ones), all steel vehicles, or wooden vehicles with steel wheels. The class is just termed ‘Period Turnout’ – nothing else.

a. WHO would be the official to ‘not let them in the class’?
Unless it was written in the schedule that viceroys, steel vehicles and steel wheeled vehicles were ineligible, no one has the authority to pre-

vent them from entering the class, on this basis.
b/c. ON WHAT BASIS would this decision be made and when would it be conveyed to the competitor ?

There is no basis so no ‘conveying’ needs to happen.
d. WHAT IF someone came in with synthetic harness – would they also be considered unacceptable to be competing?

As above, unless synthetic harness was stated as being ineligible in the schedule, no one has the authority to exclude the entry.

e. WHAT IS the easy solution?
Allow all the entries to compete and leave it up to the judge to place them as he/she sees fit.

3. IN A SIMILAR VEIN, spectators and competitors have been heard to say that horses and ponies in viceroys ‘should not be allowed’ in pleasure horse/pony classes.

a. SHOULD THEY BE ALLOWED in or should they be barred from the class ?

Of course they should be allowed in the class. The class is to judge the horse not the turnout, and a horse can show it is a pleasure to drive despite what vehicle it is in.

b. WHO would make the decision?

There is no decision to make.

c. WHAT is the easy solution?
Allow all entries in and leave it up to the judge.

NOTE: If a driver, horse, vehicle or harness appeared to be unsafe upon entering the ring, or during a class, the judge and chief steward could request the turnout be retired from the class. This goes for any class.

FINAL COMMENT: Wherever possible, drivers should be encouraged to enter classes rather finding ways to exclude them. Many drivers only have one horse, vehicle and set of harness, and most drivers can only manage to transport one vehicle to a show, so classes should be made as inclusive as possible, enabling everyone to have a good day of driving, with a number of classes to go in.



At the Rothmans National Harness Show at “Ellmore” Young in 1979 Tony Synnot groomed for Victorian Pearl Kennedy on the marathon.

Unfortunately they came to grief at Dead Man’s Gulch but none of them were hurt. We were never quite sure if the Navy knew that Admiral Sir Anthony Synnot risked life and limb at weekends.

Photo: Russell Griffiths.



2018 SYDNEY ROYAL REPORT

by Janet Muspratt

Novice non-Hackney ponies at the Sydney Royal. Photo: J Muspratt.

THE SYDNEY ROYAL was shortened by two days this year, being 12 rather than 14 days. All the harness classes were held in the first five days, except for the miniature pony classes which were held several days later. Because of the shortened time frame, some of the light harness classes were consolidated. Unfortunately there were no led Hackney classes this year. The show started on Friday March 23 and finished on Tuesday 3rd April 2018. Showjumping and a number of breed classes including Australian Stockhorses, Clydesdales, Percherons, Shires, Shetlands, Pintos and Arabians shared the arena with the harness classes at different times across the first few days. The weather was fine and dry for most of the time, although the first grand parade on the afternoon of Saturday March 24 was held in a steady drizzle.

The Light Harness classes and Business, Delivery and Turnout classes were generally quite well supported. Hackney horses and ponies were however down in numbers. Approximate counts from the catalogue entries were: Light Harness: seven Hackney horses, nine Hackney ponies, ten non-Hackney horses, 32 non-Hackney ponies, 28 Shetlands and 14 Miniature ponies. Business/Delivery horses totalled about 36, well up on last year’s entries. Approximately 15 ACDS members exhibited about 33 horses and ponies in harness.

It was good to see a number of new competitors and new horses and ponies on the scene. Amongst these was the Champion Hackney Pony, *Eskdale Francesca*, exhibited by Mark Glendenning from Ben Bullen NSW. This mare was bred by ACDS member Lady Anne Synnot. Another new horse to do very well was Non Hackney Horse *Shepherds Hill Vanessa* owned by the Hunter and Thompson families and driven by Sandy Hunter from Armidale. *Vanessa* won her Novice class and ended up being Reserve Champion Non-Hackney Horse. Another newcomer to the Sydney Royal this year was Tamworth Club President Karl Olsson with his Standardbred gelding *Soho Eros*, being driven in a beautiful sulky. They did well in strong classes gaining a second and a fifth placing. Amongst the Miniature Ponies and Shetlands, Christine Dunn’s pony *Starbuck Ion* won the Novice Shetland in Harness class and later came second to his stablemate *Grassdale Elliott* in the Miniature Mare or Gelding Harness class. It was also *Ion’s* first appearance in harness at the Royal.

A feature that I particularly liked this year was seeing the large number of magnificent sulkies, buggies and other traditional vehicles, all displayed at their sparkling best, in both the horse and pony classes.

In the Light Harness ring, Mr Richard Bentley judged the Hackneys whilst Ms Lyn Skeen judged the Non-Hackneys. Ms Glynis Jones assisted in the Authentic Period Turnout class. The Shetland judge was Mr

Bruce Hamblin whilst the Miniature Pony judge was Mr Peter Cole.

Some of the more notable results in the Light Harness and Miniature Pony Rings were: Supreme Champion Hackney Horse or Pony: *Cherry Farm Alarick* R & K Jones & R & M Bensley (NSW). Supreme Champion Non-Hackney Horse or Pony: *Canberra Park Stepalong* Saturin Keir Family (ACT). Supreme Champion Turnout: *Cherry Farm Alarick* R & K Jones and R & M Bensley (NSW). Champion Shetland in Harness: *Green Valley Krypton* M Pengelly and K Buckleigh (NSW). Best Miniature Pony in Harness: *Joemoor Thunder Storm* Dr S Bowman (NSW). Light Harness Turnout on Parade: 1st Blakeley Family with Shetland team (NSW).

The Business, Delivery and Turnout ring again had separate classes for horses shown in traditional Australian style delivery vehicles and horses in non traditional vehicles. Vehicles such as milkmen’s and bakers’ carts, long shaft breaking in gigs, spring carts, lorries and wagons were all paraded proudly. The non traditional vehicles, mainly two wheeled show carts also made attractive viewing. Mr John Vadala judged the traditional classes and Mr Ronal Brewster judged the Non Traditional classes.

The major awards included: Champion Single Horse Business Turnout: *Canberra Park Stepalong Matilda* Keir Family (ACT). Champion Multiple Horse Business Turnout: *Murroka Harmonica*, *Murroka Compass*, *Murroka Sam*, *McMurchie Ingram* Murroka Clydesdales & Demore Park (NSW). Champion Delivery Horse – Traditional Australian Vehicle: *Southern Cross Nickolas* Blakeley Family (NSW). Champion Show Driving Horse – Non Traditional Vehicle: *Demore Park Pride* D & E Rheinberger (NSW). Business/Delivery Vehicle on Parade: Murroka Clydesdales & Demore Park team (NSW).

ACDS members with horses and ponies in the Light Harness events included Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley (Reedy Creek Club), Karen Pryor (Hunter Club), Louise Wass (Ellmore Club), Kathy Brammall, Thelma Nichols, Karen and Emily Thompson and Peter O’Regan all from the Hills Club, and Karl Olsson, Val Dewsbury and Steven Lord from the Tamworth Club. In the Business/Delivery ring were Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley (Reedy Creek), Hills Club members David and Julia Cranwell and Gulgong Club members Dean and Esme Rheinberger. Another ACDS member was Ian Stewart-Koster from Queensland, who competed in the ridden heavy horse and the heavy horse obstacle classes which were held in the Schmidt Arena.

Overall the show was again a great advertisement to the public showing the elegance of carriage driving together with a reminder of the working life of heavy horses in the past.

New edition of the CDE Rulebook

YOUR CDE CONVENORS have been working steadily over the last two years to review and update the ACDS CDE Rulebook. Regular review is necessary to keep in touch with FEI rulebook changes, to encourage new and existing competitors, to ensure continuing safety of all involved and to ensure unintended consequences of rules are minimised.

The new edition has been the result of extensive member feedback, with our elected convenors using this information and their own experiences to recommend changes. Often the written word can be interpreted in a variety of ways, so vital to the review have been the ongoing conversations with organisers and competitors and within the CDE committee.

Feedback has also been gained from Federal Council, and I hope you will be interested to read of some of the updates being considered. **Please realise that until the new rulebook is approved by Federal Council these are simply proposals** being put forward by the CDE Committee.

It is recommended that a VSE class (u91cm) be able to be offered in Level 4 events, competing in the same dressage and cones competitions as the rest of the event and completing a marathon driving Section E only and MO gates A to D. This will allow the current practice of running a Three Phase Event for VSEs in association with a Level 4 CDE to be simplified into one competition, making the scoring easier. This will also welcome VSE drivers into CDEs and encourage further competitors.

There have been some issues with drivers wanting to compete with pony multiples, but under our current rules they are unable to do so until they have completed without elimination three graded CDEs as a single driver. The new rulebook edition proposes that drivers wanting to compete with a multiple for the first time will need to complete without elimination in two Introductory Multiple classes (consisting of three competitions A, B and C) before entering in a pair, tandem or four-in-hand class.

The CDE committee has put forward also that dress in dressage and cones competitions include hats or helmets and to recommend a back protector for use in marathons. Breeching is suggested to be compulsory for the wheeler of a tandem to give the same safety requirement as is in place for single horses.

In Level 2, 3 and 4 events it is recommended that, as long as the Organising Committee (OC) approves, drivers be able to compete up to twice in different classes and may act as grooms. The OC would only be able to accept sharing grooms and driving more than once if it could physically be timetabled.

In Championships it is recommended to remain that a driver only be able to compete once, while the current grooming trial which enables grooms to participate more than once in dressage and cones is proposed to be implemented.

The penalty for grooms indicating the course in dressage and cones competitions is recommended to be changed from elimination to 10 penalties, aligning this with the current FEI rules. A groom not remaining seated in the cones competition while the carriage is moving is recommended to get 5 penalties, rather than the current elimination, also aligning with FEI rules. This allows drivers to be penalised for their mistakes, not eliminated, and so is aimed at encouraging continued competition.

At level 3 and 4 events it is proposed that Novice Single and Introductory Multiple drivers are to complete gates A to D in each marathon obstacle. This is aimed at giving a distinct stepping stone for novice horses into the marathon competition as well as encouraging more competitors. Stewards at championships where an associated level 4 event has been run with only gates A to D have not reported any problems with the paperwork for recording the gates driven in an MO.

The walk speed for Open Horse, Multiples over 149 cm and Intermedi-

ate Horse is suggested to be reduced to 6.7 kph for level 1 & 2 events and 6.4 kph for level 3 & 4 events. This brings the time allowed to a closer ratio to height than previously.

The finish of Section E in the marathon is proposed to revert to FEI wording, which eliminates a contradiction and makes our rules consistent with FEI.

Times in sections for the marathon will be reinstated, clarifying minimum times and times allowed. Penalties in marathon sections are proposed to be increased to 0.25 or a penalty per second, aligning with FEI rules.

Oxers will be included in the descriptions of allowed single cones obstacles, making this interesting FEI option a part of our rulebook.

Speeds for cones courses are proposed to be the same for all levels within each class, allowing competitors to drive at this speed regardless of the level of event. This would allow competitors to know their speed required and not have a different speed to drive when it comes to higher levels of event. Cones widths variations have also been recommended to apply at all levels of events.

The proposed changes are based on all the information gathered by the CDE committee members, both formally and informally. Federal Council will consider the submitted changes for the new edition and make the final decisions.

Karen Rogers
Federal CDE Convenor

What’s The Penalty?

1. What’s the penalty if a competitor drops a trace in an MO but manages to continue and exits the MO without putting a groom down?

a) 5 penalties
b) Elimination
c) No penalty

2. What’s the penalty for a competitor who finishes Section E with a broken but adequately repaired shaft?

a) No penalty
b) 20 penalties
c) Elimination

3 What’s the penalty for a groom stepping off the vehicle to take time card to Steward after finishing a marathon section but before the vehicle has cleared the finish line?

a) 20 penalties
b) 10 penalties
c) 5 penalties

4 What’s the penalty for a groom putting both feet on an element of an MO in an effort to free the vehicle?

a) 5 penalties per foot
b) Elimination
c) 5 penalties

TJ0618

WHAT’S THE PENALTY? ANSWERS:

1. c) Art 965.6.1
2. a) Art 964.7.2

3. b) 967.2.6 & 964.5.2
4. c) Art 965.3.5

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THE DECISION TO RETURN TO THE UK for a third season was not taken lightly. Barry had already made some major adjustments to his sailing plans in order to accommodate my 2017 season and asking him to do it again for 2018 was going beyond the call of relationship or duty. Yet, in spite of all that he agreed and I found myself back at Ashfields under Wilf’s critical eye and curmudgeonly, dry humoured tutelage. It was good to be back.

The intention was to try and get a qualifying score for the 2018 World Singles Championships at Kronenberg in April, which was also to be the venue for the World Singles Championships at the end of August so a start there was really significant. A six week lead-up was desirable and although the Ashfields team were happy to start the preparation, I really wanted to do the work myself. March found *Michael* and me, as well as everyone else in England, enduring snow, freezing temperatures, hock deep mud and almost constant rain. Even the natives agreed it was a particularly miserable season.

On the basis that *Michael* “Knew all t’ moves,” Wilf’s advice was to concentrate on fitness – the weather had to improve – but it didn’t. Our fitness regime consisted of constant roadwork and very little else. The indoor school was always available but there was a limit to what could be done there without getting dizzy or bored or going stir-crazy and bouncing off the walls. The off-side hub of our beautiful new Bennington presentation carriage bears witness to this.

Apart from making sure *Michael* was as fit as could be under the

circumstances, I decided a fitness regime of my own wouldn’t go astray and for the first time in my life enrolled at the local gym. I had done interval training with horses, both ridden and driven for years and decided to follow a similar pattern myself albeit on a daily basis discounting weekends. A young male fitness instructor who, up until he met me, hadn’t a clue about what the demands of carriage driving entailed, promised to draw up a schedule for the following day and then loped off to assist a much younger, curvier and more athletic gym junkie. The next day I collected the schedule and started following his instructions. I think I got the wrong schedule. Either that or he was just plain spiteful because, for someone dangerously close to her 70th birthday and who had spent the previous three months doing very little, the schedule listed five sets of exercises on nine different apparatus including 15 minutes on a cross-trainer and 2,500 metres on a rowing machine. It nearly killed me! I wasn’t going to give him the satisfaction of seeing me give up though and devised ways of taking my mind somewhere else while the rest of me lumbered painfully through his schedule. I hated the rowing machine – particularly before I discovered how to reduce the resistance setting from killer to manageable - which took three weeks - so I visualised the whole FEI 3* HP1 dressage test from entry to exit, accompanied by aids, commands, number of strides, wink at the gate keeper, smile at the judges etc, over and over and over again. I got some pretty strange looks from others in the gym – especially in the one-handed stuff and the occasionally audible voice aids, but it did the trick.

FYI - Should you have occasion to visit the Dunmow Leisure Centre, and should the third rowing machine from the left and the cross trainer nearest the door ever morph into carriage horses, you will find they know the FEI 3*HP1 dressage test off by heart and can probably do a half decent test. (I’m going to have to swap machines soon to stop them anticipating or getting stale!)

On one occasion, deep in my own little world, vision blurred with perspiration and possibly hallucinating, I looked over my right shoulder towards E and for a split second thought the gentleman on the exercise mat across the room had fallen off his horse! He was sprawled out on one knee, head twisted sideways, left ear to the ground, right arm stretched out in a (failed) defensive position with the rest of him twisted in the opposite direction and mostly off the floor. It was a position I had seen (or been in) so often in pre-driving days that for a nano-second I forgot where I actually was. Maybe he had the same sadistic trainer. Ho Hum, nothing broken – back to the 3*HP1.

KRONENBERG: 19 – 22 APRIL 2018

TUESDAY 17 APRIL - 10pm saw us on the road in order to take the night ferry from Dover to Calais and then through France and Belgium to Kronenberg in The Netherlands. Faithful trainer Wilf accompanied us with *Michael*, two carriages and all the necessary equipment in his enormous truck (lorry, wagon or horsebox in Brit speak) and towing a caravan. He was also happy to do all the driving - the only condition being that we went to the Truckies lounge for their enormous breakfast - which at 1am was a bit daunting - but for the rest of the trip left Barry, myself and Sarah our new groom/back-stepper happily dozing.

Sarah had been an absolute Godsend having been trained by and worked for Sarah Howe, (a doyen of British carriage driving) for a number of years. She has a wealth of knowledge with the added advantage of having attended several World Championships as a groom/back-stepper. Just as importantly, she has a great sense of humour, infinite patience, an innate sense of direction, we got along well together and she loves *Michael*. I can’t tell you how grateful I was to have her!

Courtesy of the appalling British weather, *Michael* and I had not had an opportunity to train in a full sized dressage arena or driven a marathon obstacle or cones course for seven months. Cirencester, September 2017. The club event at Ashfields a week before our planned departure had been cancelled. We were starting from a long way behind the line and admit there were times when I wondered what possessed us to even consider taking such a huge step. True to form *Michael* travelled calmly, enjoyed watching the bustle of the docks and the visits Sarah paid him as she scrambled over the carriages to fill his water bucket and hay net. Two steps off the ramp and his head was down, grazing. He didn’t have the same reservations.

The Kronenberg venue is purpose built and very high tech. The main grass arena had been laid by a professional golf course designer and thus had a perfect surface. There was marquee stabling for 300 horses. The indoor and several outdoor arenas all had Olympic surfaces – as did many of the marathon obstacles. There was a bar and restaurant with a view over the indoor arena and commercial area while another bar divided the two outdoor arenas. There was a very large paved parking area and overflow parking in the paddock across the road, where four marathon obstacles were sited. All competitor parking sites had electricity and the presentation of the whole venue was immaculate. There was the obligatory minor canal running through the middle of the grounds and, just to lighten the atmosphere, bicycles and dogs buzzed around everywhere blatantly ignoring the signs about bikes in the stable area.

DAY 1 and for the first time in my life I had to relinquish presenting my own horse for the veterinary panel due to an unreliable knee which threatened to malfunction during the trot-up. Instead, Sarah did the honours with Wilf’s instructions ringing in her ears. “Run like ‘ell, shout thank you and smile as you pass t’ panel and kep on running. Don’t give ‘em a chance’t second thoughts.” It wasn’t necessary. *Michael* was sound and passed without the twitch of an eyebrow. It was interesting to see him amongst all the other horses as he is a very different type to those favoured by the Europeans - and much better looking, I thought.

Seventy-two starters presented for the Advanced Single Horse; 71 of them passed the Vet inspection.

The large number of contestants meant the dressage had to be run over two days with the big names drawn on the second day. Not surprisingly,

our test was on day One. To my dismay there was no warm-up arena. As we entered the main arena I felt *Michael* switch to ‘competition mode’ and off we went; wink at the gate keeper, smile at the judges etc. The test wasn’t the best we have ever done and there were one or two glitches. I missed a marker in the easiest part of the one-handed deviation and one of the yields progressed from ugly to cactus except for the last couple of strides, but overall I wasn’t disappointed and was reasonably confident we would sneak in under the 65 cut-off. Maybe even as low as 60? I could identify five incidents during the test that would have cost us marks and praise from Wilf is like drawing blood from a stone so his observation of it being, “an or’right test” was heartening. By the end of the first day we were lying in third place on a score of 53.55. Knowing the experts were yet to perform I expected our moment of glory to be short-lived but by the end of the second day we had only dropped three places to sixth.

And Wilf’s assessment, “Yer might’a won ‘cept for them poxy yields”. There’s no room for divas in our camp!!

Needless to say, the marathon course was beautifully built, long, complicated and in some cases, very tight - No 1 probably the tightest of the lot! The mixture of sand and felt used in the Olympic surfaces is at its best when wet and it seemed the groundsmen went to particular trouble to turn the sprinklers on whenever there was a crowd to douse. In addition, my gumboots sprang a leak wading through the water obstacles and by the time we returned to camp everything was soggy – especially my brain! Ironically, there had been a massive shift in the weather with the temperature hitting 27 degrees. At least we didn’t have to be concerned about *Michael*’s level of fitness and tolerance for hot conditions - he had done proper hot weather in Australia!

As we waited for the start Bram Chardon cycled past, wished us luck and then cheekily added, “Just remember those lessons we had in Bundanoon.”

Barry was able to video all but one of our obstacles. The “Wilf whistle” sounded every time we exited. My driving of No 1 was particularly ordinary with *Michael*’s forgiving nature the only thing that saved us. No 2 was potentially troublesome in switching from bright sunlight to shade although competitors were permitted to circle the obstacle once before going through the start. Three and Seven were both water hazards – very open and with excellent footing. No 4 had a pair of thatched rooves towering over it, Five was a mass of colour from hundreds of boxes of pansies in full bloom. Six was a series of oblong wooden boxes about shoulder height with no distinguishing characteristics other than numbers, and very tight. (There were a few distinguishing marks after we went through!)

Our objective was to finish in order to qualify for selection for the Worlds. We finished 57th but more importantly without injury to *Michael* or my getting lost or imploding! To the uninitiated it probably doesn’t sound like a wildly exciting result but when you consider the seven month gap between obstacles I was happy just to have survived. *Michael* is never going to be fast. Beautiful and stylish – yes. Speedy – forget it! And he’s not going to get any smaller either. In the meantime we have plenty to work with in terms of technique.

Cones day, and those playful little groundsmen were at it again. You could tell who had been walking the course because they all looked wet. The course had a very tight time and not a lot of opportunity to make it up. By the time we were due to start (39th) there had only been a couple of clear rounds and nobody had made the time. I decided we had nothing to lose by cantering as much as possible and praying we didn’t get lost. Again, completion was the aim. We hit three and although we didn’t make the time, got a lot closer to it than most of our predecessors. I was elated! It wasn’t until Wilf arrived on his bike, grinning from ear to ear and announced, “Well, yer’ve qualified” that the magnitude of what we had actually achieved dawned on me.

Yes, we had qualified and gained invaluable experience of the level we would be competing against if we made it to the World Championships. To finish 33rd overall in that sort of company was VERY satisfying.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you to all members of Team Gail Force. You know who you are.

And *Michael*. What can I say that I haven’t already told him 1,000,000 times before.

CLUB NEWS from NEW SOUTH WALES



Line up of horses and ponies at the Hills Club Activity Day. Photo: J Muspratt.

Hills District Harness Club

THE FIRST CLUB DRIVE FOR 2018 was held at Mt Irvine in the Blue Mountains. Eleanor Herriott and John Lee hosted the event on their property Carisbrook. The intrepid adventurers from Hills were Max Ridge and Vicky Connelly with *Mickey*, Angela Eberle with *Mal*, Jenny Conquest and Elle Hunt with *Man-ie*, and Karen Silvester with *Ziggy*, and they were joined by Central Coast Club members Catherine Charteris and Melody Kraay with *Molly*.

Weatherwise Saturday was perfect! It was hot, but not overwhelming. With their campsites organised, at 3pm everyone harnessed up and set forth across the gated paddocks atop the mountain, following John Lee and guest Kerrie McKinsey in the (motorised) buggy. The view to the coast was spectacular. They then headed down the hill through the chestnut grove of the neighbouring property Kookatonga, and made their way to the end of Mt Irvine Rd and into the Bowen's Creek Rd. Although closed for general use, the road is still navigable for 4WDs and for horse drawn vehicles. Furthermore being no longer on the basalt soils with rainforest vegetation, and now travelling on sandstone country, the topography was more open. It was also pleasantly warmer in the late afternoon. After a couple of kilometres it was decided to call it quits and head back to camp. The afternoon's entertainment was good, but it was excelled by the generosity and camaraderie of hosts Eleanor and John in the evening. Everyone contributed in some culinary measure to the BBQ, and sat down outside under a starlit evening sky to a great meal. Sunday morning presented itself as a crisp mountain day. After a leisurely breakfast, the five drivers plus two escort vehicles set off through the rising mist. It was good that all were sporting their fluro vests. The group only came across one car, a local who was very respectful when passing, on the leisurely morning drive. By early afternoon everyone had packed up and set off for home after a very relaxing and friendly weekend. Many thanks to Eleanor and John for welcoming the drivers to their lovely property.

At the Hills Club Activity Day: Above: Max Ridge with his new horse. Below left: Three pintos – Linda Upton with *Chrissie* and *Rocket*, and Christine Dunn driving *Patches*. Below right: Angela Eberle driving *Danny*. Photos: Janet Muspratt.



The first Activity Day of the year for Hills was a non competition day. It proved to be extremely popular with a total of 24 horses and ponies being driven. Drivers, grooms and stewards made up the crowd of more than 40 people in attendance. It was good to see Linda Upton again, together with her black and white Shetland *Chrissie* in the shafts, and Chrissie's foal *Rocket*, now a two year old, trotting obediently beside his mother, tied to the shaft. Since then, *Chrissie* and *Rocket* have been put together as a pair, and are going well. The Mannix family were back again too, with Damian driving *Melba* in a very smart traditional sulky. Bree Irvine was his groom. They were giving *Melba* some work before they attended the Standardbred Show with her at Tamworth the following week. Lilian, Daniel and Kylie Mannix were very interested spectators, and pleased with what they saw.

It was a big day for new or newish horses and ponies with Emily Thompson, Max Ridge, and Camden members Louise Lyons, Kim Glynkowski and Annette Campbell as well as One Activity Member Alison Azar, all having steeds in this category. The other drivers were Carolyn Kinleyside (who doubled up as a steward), Jeana Kinleyside, Dee Webb, Wayne Webster, Christine Dunn, David Cranwell, Margaret Moore, Charlotte Hyles, Kirsten Feddersen, Sally Crowell, Angela Eberle, Martyn Minns, Lynne Buckingham and Vicki Connelly, whilst Julian Cranwell long reined her Clydesdale all around the grounds. The activities were a cones course, a square bending course, a marathon obstacle and a walk course, whilst the 1km laps around the perimeter fence were also popular with most drivers. Because the grounds are so spacious, there was plenty of room for the drivers to do their own thing, either trying out the activities or just getting in a bit of training with their horses.

A highlight on the day was when drivers lined up for a group photo, just before lunch. It was a wonderful sight to see more than 20 horses and vehicles arranged from smallest to tallest, stretching across the centre of the grounds.

Goulburn District Horse Drawn Vehicle Society

THE GOULBURN CLUB held a pleasure drive going from Taralga to Laggan over the Easter long weekend. It was well organised for the participants, with plenty of water on hand for horses at the rest stops, and Judy Emerton and Robbie Baxter doing front and rear escort duty. Drivers from the Goulburn Club were Alan Smith and Damon Kimberley Allport, whilst Kath Cole and John Moyes, each driving a horse, were there from the Reedy Creek Club and the Saliba and Meads families came from the Camden Club. Maxine Saliba drove her new pony *Lucy*, with groom and driving duties being shared by her grandchildren Isla and Callum Meads over the course of the weekend. Robert Allport who has been on the sick list, called in to see the troops on one of the evenings.

Liverpool Range Harness Club

THE EXPERTISE AND KNOWLEDGE of Club Secretary Judy Tonkiss has been called upon in recent months in the local area. She spent some time giving driven dressage tuition to members of the Tamworth Club at one of their rally days, and also judged at the big Standardbred Show at the Tamworth Showground.

Our next Club Drive will be on April 21/22 on The Dip, at Breeza, the property of Sam Clift. It will be hosted by Kate Wilson. This is always a great weekend with some lovely drives on and off the property, together with very good hospitality.

May will be a busy month for a number of our members. Some will be going to the Gulgong Club drive at Ballimore on May 12/13, whilst on May 16-20, our club will hold its second Ladies Drive at Spring Ridge. It will be hosted by Vicki Donnelly and Christine O'Rourke. This was a huge success last year and again has attracted strong interest and a large number of entries. The well thought out program is designed to be a confidence and knowledge builder for lady drivers. Finally, on Sunday May 27 the Club will be running a Charity Bowls Day at Kootingal Bowling Club, to raise money for the Charity Drive for the Royal Far West Children's Charity.

The annual Charlie Phillips Memorial Drive at Round Hill, hosted by Darcy and Alison Richards will be held on the weekend of June 23/24, and looking further ahead, the annual Charity Drive for the Royal Far West will be held from September 15 – 23 2018. This year it will start

at Quirindi and finish at Werris Creek. It will be the ninth year of running this event, with an average of 30 horse drawn vehicles attending each year.

Peter Honeyman

Hunter Horse Driving Society

THE DROUGHT in parts of the lower Hunter region was broken at the end of March by rains that brought local flooding to many areas. Unfortunately the rain did not spread to other parts of the Hunter Valley where the drought continues. The rain altered the Club's plans for its March rally. However members still met at the Stroud Showground, without their horses, with Pat Thomson instead bringing along her llamas, which are in harness training.

Two of club members, Kylie dos Remedios and Cathie Browning, had great success when they attended the annual Gresford Show. They certainly did the club proud on the day, with some very good results.

Upcoming events for the Hunter Club in May will be the Stroud Safari on May 27 and the Pokolbin Leisure Drive in the beautiful Hunter vineyards on May 29- 31. The Stroud Safari will be run as an optimum time course with bonus points for stuffed 'wildlife' spotting.



Kylie dos Remedios driving Banjo at the Gresford Show. Photo: C Brosie.

Southern Highlands Carriage Club

MEMBERS HAVE HAD a busy start to the season. Executive members has been working hard on grant applications for improvements, as well as a new accounting system. Thanks to Lesley Little for her helpful advice and also to those doing State functions. People often don't realise the hours volunteered by members 'behind the scenes'.

Tracey Ellis with her Welsh Cob *Louie*, even though only just advanced into the Intermediate CDE class, have continued on their winning way. Competition was washed out on the second day of the Munro Cup at Witwood, but a week later *Louie* won the Pony Section for the Anne Synnot Cup at Murrumbateman, and two weeks after that won his class at the Joe Hawkins Cup at Marrar. Southern Highlands was also represented by Sue Plath at the Anne Synnot Cup, doing dressage judging.

On the Sunday before the National CDE Championships at Witwood, a number of Southern Highlands members went down to Witwood to move, mow, measure and set up the two dressage arenas. The arenas were later 'dressed up' by Jenny Collier with flags, flowers and shrubs and looked beautiful for the event.

At the Championships, many Southern Highlands members were involved. On the competing side, Tracey Ellis and *Louie* with Di Murray as groom won the Intermediate Large Pony class after a few dramas, whilst Yvonne Wood with *Ziggy*, and Faye Cairncross as groom, completed the Level 4 CDE on time and unscathed with a vet count of 42 with the groom feeling the horse finished in better condition than the driver and groom! On the officials and volunteering side, Sue Plath and John White judged dressage and were also on the ground jury. Jennifer White did dressage pencilling and Lindsay Reynolds was a dressage steward. Lindsay's wife Cheryl helped in the kitchen and John Woods looked after the transportation of the arenas.

The club's next big event is the NSW Show Driving Championships on May 6 2018 at Bundanoon, with two rings in action. A CDE Officials Clinic follows the next weekend at Bathurst.

Later on, Phil Marshall will be back again on June 9-11, and the 'Double Lap' Qualifiers for the Indoor Series will be held on June 23/24. The

NSW Final for this Series will be on September 1/2 2018.

Last week Warren and Barbara Ricketts and pony *Max*, were farewelled and wished all the best in their new home. They have moved north to live at Craven near Gloucester. Everyone is also wishing Warren a speedy recovery from his imminent surgery.

Reedy Creek Equestrian Club

JOHN MOYES and Kath Cole took part in the Goulburn Club’s three day Easter pleasure drive and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They took back roads to travel from Taralga to Laggan, and got to really appreciate the landscape that is there right on their own doorstep. Kath drove a new Standardbred mare and was very pleased with how she handled the experience. Many thanks to the Goulburn Club and in particular Robbie Baxter and Judy Emerton who did escort duty front and back, and brought round buckets of water for the horses for the rest stops. It was a great drive.

Central Coast Carriage Driving Club

THE CLUB’S March pleasure drive had to be postponed due to flooding in the vicinity of the driving trail. Another go at having this drive at Wollombi will be in May.

It was a beautiful long weekend over Easter and several members headed to Quorrobolong for a day of coaching and relaxing with family. Hayley and Ryan Blackman were wonderful hosts, with plenty of comfort and a superb lunch buffet after the morning session. Lessons continued in the afternoon, with Mary Grant’s *Oakey* and Hayley’s donkey *Pirate*. *Pirate* tried very hard, but did stop a couple of times to have a good think about everything, as donkeys sometimes do! However, he was going really well by the end of his lesson. The motorbike track mounds were quite fun to navigate over and around with the carriages, with the girls showing the men that there is a better use for the mounds, ie driving carriages over them rather than motorbikes!

The Club’s next event was a show driving instruction day in April, which included having a Royal Show competitor there to demonstrate plaiting and use of horse make up. Unfortunately not many people brought horses but Mary Grant took the opportunity to drive her pair of ponies on the day.

Club president, Barbara Smith was the harness judge at the Stroud Show in March and kept the ring moving along well. Barbara has asked that acknowledgement be given to neighbouring clubs who have supported Central Coast, as a new club, with advice on events and club days, particularly the organisation of its initial days. Thank you especially to Janet Muspratt, Jules Cook and Bob and Cathy Browning.

Temora Carriage Club

MARCH WAS A BUSY MONTH FOR CDEs in southern NSW and northern Victoria, and Sharon Beattie attended the Victorian CDE Championships at Koonoomoo, the Joe Hawkins Cup CDE at Marrar and the National CDE Championships at Witwood as TPR steward for each event. The driving conditions varied from a heat wave in Victoria, to dust storms at Marrar to cool and overcast weather at Witwood for the marathon.



Rachele Beattie, Kelly Edmonson, Sharon Beattie and Veronica Chown with Zoe in the Temora Club vehicle. Photo: B Chown.

Every horse or pony which finished each competition vetted through despite the weather and/or the hilly terrain. This illustrated the effort that drivers must have put into training their horses, as well as the skill drivers and grooms have developed to cool their horses to bring down heart rates in the required time.

Back in Temora Club territory, members of the Club provided carriage rides at both the Temora West School Fete and the Aria Park Central School Fete. The children and their parents had a lovely time in the carriage, with a number of children running to line up again after finishing their rides.

In the past at the Temora West Fete, the school arranged for the road to be closed and we drove up and down there. However, this time the school football field was open to drive on. We shared it with Thomas the Tank Engine, a modified small truck. At Aria Park we provided pony rides, as well as the carriage rides.

Harry Hol will be putting his big mare into the sulky for the first time this April, and we hope to soon see him at pleasure drives.

Riverina Carriage Driving Society

THE ANNUAL JOE HAWKINS CUP at Marrar in March was its usual friendly CDE. Congratulations to the Cup winner Lyn Callaghan driving *Shepherd’s Hill Dennis*.

Janice Reynolds’ horse *Rocky Creek Red Chief* has shown what a versatile horse he is by completing a ridden Endurance event, as well as having done many pleasure drives and driven Endurance events.

Sue Fraser, driving her Welsh Section A pony *Archie*, recently went to the Mike Thill School at Oxley in Victoria. Work was done on rein handling, with an emphasis on the release being just as important as the contact.

The Riverina Club’s 40th Anniversary will be held on Saturday June 30 2018 at Monte Cristo, Junee, and all are invited to attend.

New South Wales Club Notes continue on page 28

2018 AUSTRALIAN CD CHAMPIONSHIPS

An Outstanding Success!



Jun-Gi Min of South Korea & Beauwood Allegra in the Marathon. Photo: Linda Mace.

THE 2018 SKYE PARK Combined Driving Championships, conducted by the Bungendore Carriage Driving Club assisted by the Southern Highlands Carriage Club, were an outstanding success. Whatever criteria you choose, whether it be the number of entries, the number of participating states and countries, the generosity of sponsors, the standard and presentation of marathon obstacles, the quality of the competitors’ dressage, the high presentation standard of the competitors or the camaraderie of the competitors and officials, this was a really wonderful event and one not to have been missed.

Organisers excelled themselves by conducting the non-championship Scribblegum Level 4 CDE in conjunction for those who hadn’t qualified for the championships or chose not to over-face their animals. Fifty-five competitors from four Australian states and two overseas countries made this a truly national contest. Participating states in both events were Victoria (25 entrants), NSW (24), Queensland (3), Sth Australia (1) and one each from New Zealand and South Korea for a total of 55. The New Zealand competitor was Alison Cooper and the South Korean was Jungi gi Min, both of whom drove horses provided by Max Pearce.

In fact, all six states of Australia were represented as Advanced Dressage Judges Merryn Bojcun and Gill Woodstock came all the way from Western Australia and Federal Historical Convenor Michael MacDonald came over from Tasmania to help set up the event and compete as a groom.

You might well ask why the ‘quality of the competitors’ dressage’ was listed above as a criterion for the success of the championship? Well, it was very pleasing to see that 15 of the 44 championship entries scored less than 50 penalties in their tests! And this was achieved under the watchful eyes of ‘hard marking’ judges Merryn Bojcun (WA), Gwenifer Hack (Vic) and Sue Plath (NSW) for the Open Classes and Gill Woodstock (WA), Nola Robertson and John White both from NSW for the Novice classes.

Best scores in the Novice classes were: Ruby Lawrence (NLP) 43.50; Ned Andrew (NSP) 43.83; Kim Norris (NH) 46.00; Amy Woodfield (NLP) 48.00; Belinda Casper (NH) 50.33; Yvonne Brown (NLP) 52.00;

David Cockcroft (NH) 57.50; Lisa Harrington (NSP) 58.50. Best scores in the Open/Intermediate classes were: Tor Van Den Berge (HP) 31.57; Lorraine Cairns (OH) 35.31; Elizabeth Lawrence (P4) 37.23; David Rozynski (IH) 43.87; Phil Marshall (PP) 45.12; Gavin Robson (P4) 46.51; Chuckie Radnedge (HT) 47.47; Lyn Callaghan (OH) 48.43; Byron McIntyre (HP) 49.17; Rhiannon Damsma (P4) 49.71.

The renowned and well presented Witwood marathon course (on this occasion of just under 17kms) included a new Richard Nicol designed obstacle (all the existing MOs were originally built to his designs). Course Designer Peter Harkness ensured that all obstacles provided a significant and fair challenge, appropriate for a national championship. The marathon obstacles were complicated and drew eight corrected errors of course but fortunately only three competitors were eliminated. Best marathon scores were: Tor Van Den Berge (HP) 91.46; Phil Marshall (PP) 91.94; Sarah Keevers (OSP) 93.06; Lyn Callaghan (OH) 96.08; Vicki Stevenson (ISP) 98.18; Ned Andrew (NSP) 99.06; Linden Barrey (NLP) 99.27; Ruby Lawrence (P4) 101.47; Yvonne Brown (NLP) 102.21; David Rozynski (IH) 104.51; Byron McIntyre (HP) 105.44; Amy Woodfield (NLP) 105.96; Peter Dunn (NLP) 107.19; Kim Norris (NH) 109.99; Lorraine Cairns (OH) 112.84; Karen Rogers (PT) 113.92; Tracey Ellis (ILP) 115.55.

The Event Dinner for 300 people on the Sunday night was held in the newly extended clubhouse, with lots of noise indicating that everyone was enjoying themselves, the camaraderie and the excellent food.

Peter Harkness presented a demanding but fair course for the Cones Competition on the third day, such that it yielded an acceptable 12 double clear rounds. Competitors had to pass the Fourth Horse Inspection (on the move) prior to starting their cones course.

The clear rounds were achieved by: Ned Andrew, Tracey Touhy and Jenny Begg (all NSP), Ruby Lawrence (NLP), Linden Barrey (NLP), Debra Fuller (NLP), Carolyn Wiseman (NLP), Belinda Casper (NH), Tamara Abed (ILP), Sarah Keevers (OSP), Amanda See (OLP), Lorraine Cairns (OH). Next best scores with just one ball down (3.00 penalties) were: Peter Dunn (NLP), Kim Norris (NH), Bernadette Lewis (ISP),

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.



Alison Cooper, New Zealand driving Beauwood Rocky Road in the Cones. Photo: Linda Mace.

Graham Martin (ISP), David Rozynski (IH), Phil Marshall (PP), Karen Rogers (PT), Chuckie Radnedge (HT), Gavin Robson (P4) and Rachel Haslau (P4).

As is now customary with events at Witwood, the rosettes for the cones competition were presented in harness, as soon as the last competitor finished the course. The cones results only affected the winners in one class – that of the Open Horse o149cm.

The 2018 ACDS Australian Combined Driving Champions are: Novice Pony 91cm & u121cm – Ned Andrew (Vic). Novice Pony 121cm & ne 149cm – Ruby Lawrence (Vic). Novice Horse o149cm – Kim Norris (SA). Intermediate Pony 91cm & u121cm – Vicki Stevenson (Vic). Intermediate Pony 121cm & ne 149cm – Tracey Ellis (NSW). Intermediate Horse o149cm – David Rozynski (Qld). Open Pony 91cm & u121cm – Sarah Keevers (NSW). Open Pony 121cm & ne 149cm – Amanda See (NSW). Open Horse o149cm – Lorraine Cairns (Vic). Pony Pair 91cm & ne 149cm – Phil Marshall (Vic). Horse Pair o149cm – Tor Van Den Berge (Qld). Pony Tandem 91cm & ne 149cm – Karen Rogers (Vic). Horse Tandem o149cm – Chuckie Radnedge (NSW). Pony Team 91cm & ne 149cm – Elizabeth Lawrence (Vic).

Overall results were: Novice Pony 91cm & u121cm – 1. Ned Andrew 142.89; 2. Tracey Touhy 187.03; 3. Jenny Begg 192.14. Novice Pony 121cm & ne 149cm – 1. Ruby Lawrence 144.97; 2. Amy Woodfield 161.96; 3. Yvonne Brown 166.21; 4. Linden Barrey 171.10; 5. Peter Dunn 174.69. Novice Horse o149cm – 1. Kim Norris 158.99; 2. Belinda Casper 170.41; 3. David Cockcroft 182.50. Intermediate Pony 91cm & u121cm – 1. Vicki Stevenson 154.05; 2. Bernadette Lewis 191.25; 3. Graham Martin 195.26. Intermediate Pony 121cm & ne 149cm – 1. Tracey Ellis 184.34. Intermediate Horse o149cm – 1. David Rozynski 151.38. Open Pony 91cm & u121cm – 1. Sarah Keevers 153.33. Open Pony 121cm & ne 149cm – 1 Amanda See 181.89. Open Horse o149cm – 1. Lorraine Cairns 148.15; 2. Lyn Callaghan 150.51. Pony Pair 91cm & ne 149cm – 1. Phil Marshall 140.06; Horse Pair o149cm – 1.Tor Van Den Berge 135.03; 2. Byron McIntyre 166.75; 3. Ross Carbery 281.89. Pony Tandem 91cm & ne 149cm – 1. Karen Rogers 167.05. Horse Tandem o149cm – 1. Chuckie Radnedge 227.46. Pony Team 91cm & ne 149cm – 1. Elizabeth Lawrence 167.42; 2. Gavin Robson 172.03; 3. Rhiannon Damsma 182.95; 4. Nicole Linic 182.99; 5. Rachel Haslau 228.58.

The Concours d'Elegance Awards went to two superb turnouts : Multiples – Tor Van Den Berge (HP). Singles – Lorraine Cairns (OH).

The results of the Scribblegum Level 4 CDE with places in each compe-

tition were: Novice Pony 91cm &ne 149cm; 1 Julie Mackay 2, 1, 4, 132.57; 2 Tess Smith 4, 3, 2, 146.59; 3 Debbie Dunn 5, 2, 1, 147.51; 4 Jennifer Brennan 3, 4, 3, 156.47; 5 Yvonne Wood 6, 5, 5, 190.43. Introductory Multiples 1 Tor Van Den Berge 1, 1, 1, 124.52; 2 Lynne Dominish 3, 2, 2, 158.09; 3 Carolyn Blakeley 4, 4, 3, 255.87.

To the credit of the organisers, the Prize-giving was a glittering affair with Skye Park rugs for all champions, prizes of Skye Park accessories for placegetters and a bag of Mitavite horsefeed to a placegetter in all classes. Event Director Dot Willcoxson thanked the many volunteers for their invaluable contributions, as well as the judges and competitors, some of whom had travelled thousands of kilometres. She also thanked all the sponsors including: Skye Park Equine Tailors, Scribblegum Design & Print, Mitavite Nutritional Horsefeeds, Carbery Carriages, Atlas Windows, Performance Floats, Barrier Beach Resort Vanuatu, Alawah Alpacas, Bennington Carriages Australia, Hunter Horse Driving Trials Club, The Carriage Driver, Mornington Peninsular Pleasure Harness Club, Sydney Carriage and Harness Supplies, Debbie's Massage & Natural Therapies, Mahbrook Carriage Supplies, Southern Highlands Carriage Club, Ellmore Driving Club. The Feed Shed Bungendore, Cooma Rural CRT, Oaklands Horse & Carriage Driving Club,

The ACDS Championship Roster has Western Australia as the host state for the 2019 Australian Combined Driving

Championships and as this state has a record of running very successful national events, members are advised to start planning now for this memorable trip.

Tony James

Key to Class Abbreviations		
NSP	-	Novice Small Pony 91cm – u121cms.
NLP	-	Novice Large Pony 121cm – ne149cms.
NH	-	Novice Horse over 149cms.
ISP	-	Intermediate Small Pony 91cm – u121cms.
ILP	-	Intermediate Large Pony 121cm – ne149cms.
IH	-	Intermediate Horse over 149cms.
OSP	-	Open Small Pony 91cm – u121cms
OLP	-	Open Large Pony121cm -ne149cms.
OH	-	Open Horse over 149cms.
PP	-	Pony Pair 91 – ne149cms.
HP	-	Horse Pair over 149cms.
PT	-	Pony Tandem. 91 – ne149cms.
P4	-	Pony Team. 91 – ne149cms.

CLASS WINNERS AT THE 2018 Skye Park COMBINED DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Photos: Linda Mace



Above: Novice Horse winner - Kim Norris & Steinway in the Cones. Below left: Intermediate Large Pony: Tracey Ellis (NSW) driving Kaewyn Dinnagwyn (Louie). Below right: Pony Pairs: Phil Marshall (Vic) with Pepper & Ripple Brook Meg in the Marathon. Photos: Linda Mace.





*Pony Tandem:
Karen Rogers (Vic)
driving
Ripple Brook April &
Ripple Brook Applique
in the Marathon.*



*Intermediate Small
Pony:
Vicki Stevenson (Vic)
driving
Narringalook Tim Tam
in the Marathon.*



*Horse Pairs:
Tor Van Der Berge (Qld)
driving
Carbery Estate Chino
& Carbery Estate Cato
in the Marathon.*



*Open Small Pony:
Sarah Keevers (NSW)
driving
Wooleen Miss Henrietta
in the Marathon.*



*Intermediate Horse:
David Rozinsky (Qld)
driving
Cwmkaren Woody
in the Marathon.*



*Open Large Pony:
Amanda See (NSW)
driving
Cherrington Harlequin.
All photos courtesy of
Linda Mace.*



Above: Horse Tandem: Chuckie Radnedge (NSW). Below: Open Horse: Lorraine Cairns driving Victor in the Marathon. Photos: Linda Mace.



Above: Ross Carbery - Carbery Estate Valentino & Carbery Estaste Ferrero. Below: In the Level 4 - Julie Mackay & Poppy. Photos: Linda Mace.



PETERBOROUGH CLASSIC 2018 - Photos by Andrew Graham - Kangra



Anna-Marie Vaudin winner Level 3 Novice Horse.



Belinda Mattner winner Level 4 Big Pony.



Deb O'Dowd winner Level 3 Open Pony.



Ellie Crossley winner Level 3 Novice Big Pony.



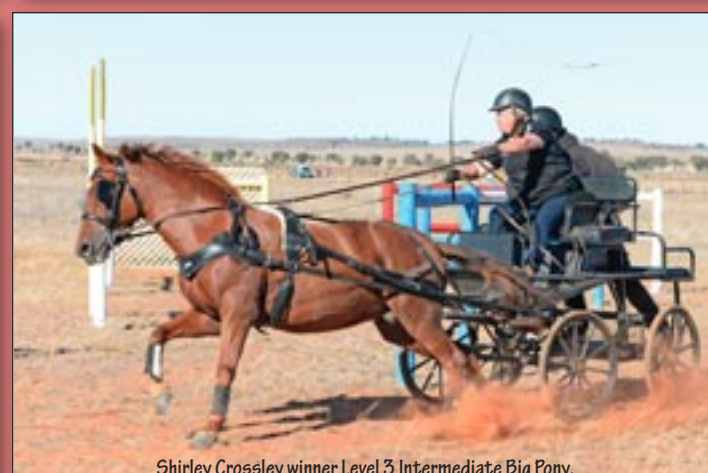
Lawrie Tyas winner Level 3 Intermediate Small Pony.



Megan Webb winner Level 3 Novice Small Pony.



Megan Webb winner Level 4 Novice Small Pony.



Shirley Crossley winner Level 3 Intermediate Big Pony.



Above: Bakers turnouts at the Sydney Royal. Below left: Joanne Dorman driving Westbury Van Gogh. Below right: Steven Lord driving his and Val Dewsbury's beautifully matched team of Shetlands. Photos: J Muspratt



Below left: Joanne Dorman driving Yarra Heights Little Bee in a governess car. Photo: J Muspratt. Below right: Peta and Paul Skaines driving Kilveera Vanilla Sky in the breaking in gig class. Photo: C Fitzpatrick.



GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS come to MAFFRA, VICTORIA



Left: Anita Heath.
Centre left: Tina Minty driving Tooravale Take a Chance.
Centre right: Heidi Murphy.
Lower left: Ann Berrett driving Ardoch Hamish.
Lower right: Lorabella Harmony driven by Tracey Tuohy winner of the Elementary Single class at the Victorian Dressage Championships.



GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS come to MAFFRA, VICTORIA



Glenda Marshall driving Pepper, winner of the Novice Class at the Australian Dressage Championships.

COMPETITORS driving a variety of combinations and breeds, including Welsh, Shetland, Gypsy Cobs, Fjord, Gelderlander, VSE and a donkey took advantage of the Victorian Graded Driven Dressage Championships and the Australian Graded Driven Dressage Championships, held on the same weekend at the Maffra Reserve on April 14th & 15th April, 2018. Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club hosted the weekend with the Victorian Graded Driven Dressage Championships on the Saturday including a ‘Freestyle Spectacular under Lights’ on Saturday evening. The weekend was supported by the Wellington Shire Council, along with various sponsors from the local Maffra area and from far and wide across Victoria, including Omeo and The High Plains region. The Australian GDD Championships were sponsored by Skye Park Equine Tailors.

Twenty-nine beautifully turned-out horses and carriages, including three from New South Wales, presented to the six dressage judges who presided over the two rings. Judges, Dot Willcoxson, Nola Robertson, Liz Pugh, all from NSW, Margaret Langan, from WA, Deb Fuller and Margie Morgan from Victoria, judged the various graded levels on the lovely grassed surface of the Maffra Reserve. Judges were most understanding as drivers braced themselves as the weather changed and strong winds blew, steadily getting colder and the sky darker with the last three entries competing in heavy rain.

Twenty-three drivers took up the option to also compete in the cones competition, driving a Championship level course designed by Tom Dowling (VIC) and judged by Doug Willcoxson (NSW). Heidi Murphy driving her Fjord, *Seaview Park Garth*, won the Single Cones class and Kimberley Damsma won the Multiples Cones class with her Welsh Mountain Pony team.

A fully catered dinner was enjoyed in the Main Pavilion, which offered a great back drop for the entrants in the Freestyle competition held under lights. The weather gods were kinder and the rain stayed away as combinations performed under first class lighting and to the quality sound system and truly put on a ‘Spectacular Freestyle display’. Families, friends and local spectators were treated to and thoroughly enjoyed watching the combinations showcase their performances o a variety of music. The winner was *Victor* driven by Lorraine Cairns to a medley of Aussie tunes.

It was great to have the National Dressage Convenor adjudicate on Sunday at the Skye Park Equine Tailors National Graded Driven Dressage Championships. Utilising the same judges from the Victorian GDD Championships, with ring and positional changes, ensured the ‘National flavour’ to the event. Fortunately for the 25 competitors, the weather was much kinder with the rain primarily staying away.

Nineteen drivers took up the option to compete in the cones competition, over a course once again designed by Tom Dowling (VIC) and judged by Doug Willcoxson (NSW). Sarah Keevers, driving her versatile pony *Wooleen Miss Henrietta* won the Single Cones class and Mandy Lawrence driving her pair of Gypsy Cobs, *Ambleside Lochindaal* and *Forge Farm Heathcliff* won the Multiples Cones class.

EVPHC is grateful for the privilege and opportunity to have been able to host both the Victorian and National Graded Driven Dressage Championships in Maffra, Victoria. Many thanks to the Vic Branch of the ACDS and the National Driven Dressage Committee for their support and assistance before and during this event – your guidance and attendance were greatly appreciated.

Full results are available on the ACDS Victorian Branch Website.

Cheryl Dowling Event Secretary (EVPHC)

RESULTS - National Graded Driven Dressage Championships

Preliminary Single: *Caerleon Princeton*, Kirsty Beecroft. (VIC). Novice Single: *Pepper*, Glenda Marshall. (VIC). Novice Multiples: *Mosman Park Vienna Woods*, *Mosman Park Sugar Plum*, *Mosman Park Fairytale* and *Westbury Dior*, Kim Damsma (VIC). Elementary Single: *Westbury Skeeta*, Rhiannon Damsma (VIC). Intermediate Single: *Wooleen Miss Henrietta*, Sarah Keevers (NSW). Advanced Single: *Victor*, Lorraine Cairns (VIC). Concours d’Elegance Single sash was presented to Kirsty Beecroft, driving *Caerleon Princeton*. (VIC). Concours d’Elegance Multiples sash was presented to Kim Damsma (VIC) with her Pony Team. The Best Overall Dressage score (donated by Sue Waters) was presented to Sarah Keevers (NSW) driving *Wooleen Miss Henrietta*. The Welsh Pony and Cob Society of Australia Yarra Valley Regional Promotional Group sponsored an award for the Best Dressage Score by a Registered Pure Bred Welsh which was won by *Westbury Skeeta* driven by Rhiannon Damsma.

RESULTS - Victorian Graded Driven Dressage Championships

Preliminary Single: *Westbury Dandino*, Bernadette Lewis. Novice Single: *Dalgangle Horatio*, Pam Salter. Novice Multiples: Pony Team - *Mosman Park Vienna Woods*, *Mosman Park Sugar Plum*, *Mosman Park Fairytale* and *Westbury Dior*, Kimberley Damsma. Intermediate Single: *Wooleen Miss Henrietta*, Sarah Keevers. Elementary Single: *Lorabella Harmony*, Tracey Tuohy. Advanced Single: *Victor*, Lorraine Cairns. Concours d’Elegance Single sash was presented to Sarah Keevers (NSW) driving *Wooleen Miss Henrietta*. Concours d’Elegance Multiple sash was presented to Kimberley Damsma driving the Pony Team. The Best Overall Dressage Score (donated by Sue Waters) was presented to Lorraine Cairns driving *Victor*.

CLUB NEWS from NEW SOUTH WALES continued



Left: Angela Gray in CDE mode. Photo: A Gray. Right: Linda Porta driving



Westbury Lady Marietta at the Welsh National Show. Photo: Lisa Gordon.

Border Carriage Club

ANGELA GRAY is back competing in CDEs after two years off due to a serious carriage driving accident. She competed at the Bellarine Harness Club's CDE near Geelong and had a very successful weekend, coming first in the Novice Horse dressage, third in the marathon and second in the cones, resulting in being third overall. The next event was the Victorian CDE Championships at Koonoomoo. This time she was third in the dressage, second in the marathon and first in the cones, with her overall result being second in the Novice Horse.

Linda Porta driving *Westbury Mariette* attended the Welsh National Show on March 10/11 2018 at Tatura Showgrounds. *Mariette* placed first in the Section C/D mare or gelding class. She then went on to be awarded National Champion Welsh Harness Exhibit and received a Welsh Society Silver Medal.

Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club

FOR THE MARCH CLUB RALLY a mini CDE with a twist was requested, so instead of the normal dressage test, the indoor test was given a go. The dressage test on the smaller 50 x 20m arena proved to be not only a challenge but also great fun, once drivers got over the 'Not the dressage test' mind set.

The cones course was set to test driving skills and the obedience of the horses. Although not overly difficult it was set out to challenge all drivers whether they just plodded through it or found another gear and flew around the course.

The 5km marathon course was set out well with obstacles set at 1km intervals giving even the unfit horses time to recover before being faced

with another MO. All MOs were designed to be driven at a medium trot as this was a fun day and there was no need to push them. There were no stewards on the course and no stop watches to be seen so time was never a factor. It was just lots of fun.

Special thanks go to Michelle Major for being the dressage judge. Michelle is currently sidelined from driving due to a non-driving related injury, and everyone wishes her a speedy recovery.

Congratulations to club members Dee Hillard, Margaret Broadbent, Margaret Neely and Trina Redgewell who competed at the Manilla Show and won plenty of ribbons and prizes between them.

The Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association of NSW held its inaugural state championships at Tamworth Paceway on the same weekend, and several members attended either to compete or help out. Tamworth Club drivers proved very strong in the carriage driving classes. Karl Olsson took out Supreme State Standardbred Harness Champion, whilst Amanda Kettlestring won her dressage class and was second in the cones and Helena South from Inverell won her dressage class and the cones competition. Despite the heat they all had a great day.

Special thanks to Judy Tonkiss for being the dressage and show judge and Lizzette Ferguson for being the side dressage judge and cones judge. Michelle Major, Lyn Olsson and Echah Wright (from the North Coast Club) were the trusty pencilers. Apart from harness classes, the State Standardbred Show included led, ridden, showjumping and ridden dressage classes, and the organisers were pleased with how it all went. Also on the same weekend was the Muswellbrook Show, and Kristy French flew the flag very successfully for the club. Congratulations Kristy.

Sally Jones and Yvette Furner at the Tamworth Club Rally Day. Photo: S Armitage.



The April club day saw 11 horses and drivers having a blast with some new and some revamped sporting events. Several new people went along to see how it was all done. Yvette Furner from Darwin flew in to drive Liz O'Brien's pony *Bundy Bear*, and while she was down there she managed to find a house to buy. She and her husband are looking at moving to the Tamworth area at the end of the year, and, all going well, will join the club. Karl Olsson and his Standardbred *Soho Eros* recently featured in an article in The Northern Daily Leader:

'*Soho Eros* was a local champ on the paceway when he was trained by Tony Missen at Tamworth. He had 84 race starts for 19 wins and 28 placings. Some of his feature race wins were a Tamworth City Cup in 2014 and a Gunnedah Cup in 2013, with his racing career finishing in the 2014 running of the Tamworth Cup where he was second to Yaya Hot Spot when driven by Peter Missen.

Since his retirement from the race track, *Soho Eros* has been stepping out in style under the guidance of Karl Olsson, president of the Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club, and this week he made his debut at the Royal Easter Show, picking up a second and a fifth placing in his classes. *Soho Eros* had a practice run for the Sydney Royal at the recent Standardbred Pleasure and Performance Horse Association Championships conducted at Tamworth.

Well done to Karl, his niece as groom Fiona Zibens, and *Soho Eros*, and thank you to Karl's nephew Paul Zibens for the photo – it's good to see these racehorses having a great life after competitive racing."

Val Dewsbury and Steve Lord with their Minis and Shetlands, along with Ashleigh and Robyn Alison-Woods with their Hackneys also competed with success at the Sydney Royal. Well done everyone!

North Coast Carriage Club

THE NORTH COAST CLUB met at Glenreagh Recreation Reserve on April 7th 2018. I'd like to say we arrived bright and early, but those who know us, would know that would be a fib! We straggled in at about 10ish and realised to our horror that we had forgotten to bring morning tea! So it was down to the CWA hall to buy scones, jam and cream. At that point, the heavens opened up and it bucketed down. Well, always happy to see the silver lining, we went back to the grounds and had a lovely guilt-free cup of tea, whilst smugly lamenting the fact we couldn't drive in the rain. Evidently we think we're made of sugar!

Of course the rain didn't last, so we soon harnessed up our slightly sodden horses and drove the cones course that 11 year old Tully Naylor had set up earlier. He made good use of the arena and even had some L shapes requiring the driver to 'park' the horse then fan or shaft to the side to continue on. Probably it wasn't strictly a 'cones course', but it was definitely good practice for when you find yourself parked in by other horses and sulkies.

Wondering what to do next, and with such a good roll up of drivers in the ring, a moment of divine inspiration came to Heidi Naylor. We started an impromptu conga line of carriages around the arena, firstly at a walk, and then at a trot. It was good practice to get our horses used to hearing other horses coming up behind them.

Then we lined up side by side, and each took a turn at weaving in and out of each turnout. We lined up side by side again, and started a slow game of 'tag'. It involved the first driver trotting around and up behind the second driver, who then moved off to do the same to the next driver down the line, whilst the first driver parked in the vacated spot. These may seem like odd games, but if you think about it, this controlled friendly environment was the perfect place to get horses and drivers used to situations often encountered at shows where horses are crowded by other competitors or hear the show jumpers thundering up behind them.

Heidi's next great idea was for us to practice the beginnings of a driven quadrille. We must have looked like a gaggle of drunken geese, but it was great fun to be out there doing something together in what may be described as organised chaos. Heidi is a risk management freak, so we walked it many times, until we were confident with our horses and spacing. Then we were trotting towards and between each other and quite excited about the prospect of actually getting good at it! Watch this space is all I can say!

Tully Naylor, having turned 11 recently, drove his pony *Honey* for the first time without a second set of reins being held by his groom. His smile was from ear to ear at this step towards independence. He even joined in the attempt at the quadrille.

We decided to end on a good note and did a short pleasure drive through the bush trails of the Recreation Reserve. Whilst it was not up to the kilometres of pleasure driving we hear of out on the Liverpool Plains, it was a very pleasant way to wrap up a lovely day together.

Heidi has since found a plan for a driven quadrille, and has paired the horses up with what hopefully are matching paces. She figures that *William* the Clydesdale probably moves at the same pace as *Honey* the Miniature. If nothing else, it will at least provide comedy relief and distract the audience from any mistakes we make. We are not quite sure where we are going with this, but it will be fun trying to get it right. Emphasis will be on accuracy, spatial awareness and of course, enjoyment driving our horses.

Rowena Walker



All in the Family! At Glenreagh, Tully Naylor driving his pony Honey, with dad Scott, whilst mum Heidi driving Bella looks on. Photo: R Walker.

Murrumbidgee Carriage Driving Club

THE MURRUMBIDGEE CLUB is holding an Indoor/Outdoor Qualifier on May 19/20 2018 at Murrumbidgee. The competition will kick off around lunch time on the Saturday with a BBQ dinner that night. A second competition will be run on the Sunday morning. Competitors who successfully complete these two events will be fully qualified for both the NSW and Victorian Series finals.

The Club is running a Level 3 CDE on September 15/16 2018 at Murrumbidgee. The Club has been lucky enough to receive some major sponsorship. Murrumbidgee Lucerne will be donating chaff to first prize winners in each class, whilst every competitor will go into the draw for a week's accommodation and boat hire to the value of \$2000, donated by Amaroo Resort Sussex Inlet. For further information contact Robyn Schmetzer on 0458 552 331 or robyn_schmetzer@yahoo.com

Ellmore Carriage Driving Club

WE HAVE HAD a busy couple of months with members competing all over the state in a number of disciplines. Members have competed in CDEs, dressage days and show classes, with plenty of wide ribbons being won in the latter.

Louise Wass and Heidi Stevens have had a very successful season with their horses and ponies in the show ring. On the CDE scene, Kookie Engelsman has done well with her new pony *Hudson Sideshow*, winning the Level 4 CDE held in conjunction with the Victorian CDE Championships. This pony is loving his new career as a CDE pony. Kookie also had success at the Anne Synnot Cup Graded Dressage, with *Hudson Franco* gaining a placing in his test on the day.

I have had a ball this year driving a tandem again. I took *Hudson Gucci* and *Hudson Vamoose* down to the Victorian CDE Championships where they did a great job as a new tandem. We also had a great time at the Australian CDE Championships, hosted by the Bungendore Club. It was, without question, one of the best events I have ever competed in, and would like to thank all the workers and the sponsors of this fantastic event.

We are all gearing up for our first Park Drive to be held at Mayfield Garden, Oberon this coming weekend. Our club members have put an enormous amount of work into this event, and have already been rewarded by the excellent number of drivers entering the event.

Have a great winter and remember to hug your horses and ponies. They do everything for you with no expectation of a reward.

Chuckie Radnedge

Bungendore Carriage Driving Society

BUNGENDORE CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB hosted the Skye Park National CDE Championships over Easter 2018 at Witwood. The event was the culmination of the determination of some very hard working Club members. The Club house was extended and doubled in size so that we were able to cater for the influx of competitors and their entourages. A new obstacle was also built, and the notorious Witwood driveway was upgraded for the event. In the week leading up to the event we had extra troops. Michael MacDonald and David Potter (Tasmania), Tom and Cheryl Dowling, Beryl Wright, Peter Lee, Heather and Dale Parker and their son DJ worked tirelessly to ensure everything was completed. Peter Harkness created a course that was challenging and varied. His contribution and efforts are to be applauded.

The Championships attracted 55 entries and included a Level 4 Event. We had one competitor from across the ditch NZ (Alison Cooper) and a South Korean entry (Jun Gi Min).

We would like to thank Cheryl Dowling as Event Secretary and all she did to keep the weekend running smoothly; Peter Lee as Technical Delegate and all round good guy; Ian Denney the vet for ensuring horse welfare; Vicky Lee and Sharon Beattie as TPR stewards; Merryn Bojcun as President of the Ground Jury; Sue Plath, Gwenifer Hack, Nola Robertson, John White and Gillian Woodstock as Judges; Ground Jury Meryn Bojcun, Sue Plath, Gwenifer Hack, Nola Robertson and John White; Appeals Committee, Doug Willcoxson, Tom Dowling, Sandy Elliot ; Scorers David Armstrong, Greg and Alison MacDonald and Jane Keever; and our Announcer Amanda Kettlestring who kept us all informed and entertained.

Special thanks must go to our official photographer, Linda Mace, who single handedly raised the profile of our sport by providing brilliant photos and articles to numerous newspapers in our region.

There was also a brilliant video produced by Bod and well worth a view to catch some of the action. Search You Tube, 2018 Witwood. There are results and photos elsewhere in this Journal.

Jennifer Brennan

Camden Harness Club

FOR MANY YEARS Camden Harness Club has sponsored the Champion and Reserve Champion prizemoney in the harness ring at the Camden Show. This year six ponies and four horses competed in the light harness classes at the show, including a Hackney pony and a Hackney horse headed for the Sydney Royal the following week

It was extremely hot once again, with little shade to be found. Classes were held in the relatively small main arena, along with show jumping and heavy horse events, making it very busy and noisy. The advertised judge could not be found, so Carol Fitzpatrick who happened to be there as a spectator, but is an accredited show harness judge, was suddenly recruited. The show must go on! Thank you Carol!

Mark Glendenning driving 2018 Sydney Royal Hackney Pony Champion, Eskdale Francesca, at the Camden Show. Francesca was bred by Lady Anne Synnot. Photo: P Fitzpatrick.



Charlotte Hyles competing at the National Championships. Photo: Linda Mace.

Camden members Charlotte Hyles and Sue Wright did well. Charlotte with *Ziva CN* won Champion Turnout in her brand new Mahbrook CDE vehicle, with fellow member Sally Crowell acting as handler and groom. *Ziva* also won Champion Non Hackney Horse or Pony, with Sue Wright's *Polly* being Reserve Champion.

Charlotte and *Ziva CN* later attended the National CDE Championships at Witwood, competing in the Novice Horse class. New Zealand visitor Paige Tholen was her groom in the dressage and cones, with experienced backstepper Lucy Weir from the Southern Carriage Club taking the groom position in the marathon. Fellow Camden club members Greg and Alison McDonald stepped in at the last minute to offer scoring assistance, which was greatly appreciated by the organisers. Marathon day presented eight freshly painted obstacles, all offering a great range of options. The newly extended clubhouse at Witwood made a wonderful space for the disco after the marathon survival dinner.

The Cones were run on the Monday morning, with immediate presentations made after each class. Well done to the scorers to get the results out so quickly, so everyone was finished by lunchtime. A strong contingent came from Victoria and they did very well.

Dot Willcoxson was overjoyed with how well the event ran and declared it their ‘most successful event ever!’

CLUB NEWS from QUEENSLAND

Caboolture Carriage Club

THE CABOOLTURE CARRIAGE CLUB Graded Dressage event was excellently run by a small band of willing workers and the day ran smoothly.

Dressage judges Janet Seddon and Marilyn Taylor had ample time to do their job well. Meta and Yohanna Cook had bags of feed donated for all competitors and each received a highball glass which was beautifully engraved with a horse's head by Chris O'Brien.

Sunday was a fun cones and novelty day with events like odds and even cones, bending barrels, walk trot etc. Jill Seary designed a good flowing course and we had quite a few runs. More bags of feed were given.

The Saturday night dinner was delicious especially Lettie's pumpkin soup. Sue, our judge, Lettie and Craig worked so hard on the novelty day, nothing was too hard. Thanks everyone it was an awesome event. When can we do it again!

Jan Young



CLUB NEWS from SOUTH AUSTRALIA



Penny Heighes photos from the South Australian Masters Games: Top left: Michelle Wheaton driving Drewlynd Little Emperor Welsh B stallion Crestwood I Spy. Top centre: Carol Mercer driving Bain Park Phoenix. Top right: Robyn Rainey driving Llanfairbryn Great Vintage..new pony first outing. Bottom left: Marlene Jarrett driving Pen-nant Hew. Bottom centre: Leonie Hartshorne with Nanardine Monty. Anne Perry driving Pangkala Miss Missy.



THE FINAL STATE Graded Dressage qualifiers have been held with quite large numbers attending. The State Dressage Championships will be held at Monarto over the June long weekend. They will be part of the Triple Crown showing weekend. A day of Dressage, a day of showing and a day of Obsthathon competition... something for every driving enthusiast packed into one weekend at one venue.

The SA Masters Games were held in Murray Bridge on the 21st and 22nd of April. Carriage driving was included again in the Sporting line up. The weather was glorious and numbers in particular for day one of dressage kept the judges going from 8.30am till just after 5pm. To say that we all appreciate their efforts and time is an understatement. Day two was the Obsthathon competition. Fast (well... some combinations showed some flair and speed... my pony and I were happy to be the sedate combination!) and colourful it's a great event for spectators. Lots of onlookers and driving enthusiasts turned up to watch and the feed back was again very positive. Another event positive was the three photographers available for the weekend and some lovely photos available of phases.

Susan Stuart

PETERBOROUGH CLASSIC 2018

A celebration of 10 years of Carriage Driving in Peterborough!

THE ANNUAL Peterborough Classic was conducted as always on the March long Weekend (Adelaide Cup Weekend) at the Peterborough Rodeo Grounds. This was a very special event for our club as it was the 10th year anniversary of GPCDA in Peterborough.

From humble beginnings, GPCDA has evolved into a progressive club with great facilities. We now proudly have our own clubrooms, two dressage arenas, permanent obstacles, a storage container, rain water tank and a wonderful membership that made it all possible. We proudly offer competitors safe yarding at no cost and spacious camping areas for visitors, red dust comes at no extra charge! Well done GPCDA members for all the achievements over the last 10 years and for more to come!!

PETERBOROUGH CLASSIC: The Level 3 event was run in conjunction with a Level 4 to gain maximum competitor participation. A pleasing field of 21 starters entered, including singles and multiples.

DAY ONE started in lovely conditions for Dressage and Cones. The competitors looked spectacular in their presentation turnouts and some lovely Dressage tests were driven followed by fast and accurate Cones Driving. The excellent cones course was designed and judged by Hilton Trigg. Many local spectators turned out for the day and were delighted

by the spectacle. After lunch however, the heat set in and our poor stewards and Judges were sweltering. Very sensibly, the Judges made the decision that competitors could wear summer attire and forgo their jackets – Thank You!!

DAY TWO and it was freezing and windy! All the sunburnt Stewards and Judges from the previous day were rugged up and shivering for the Marathon. The cool conditions were great for the horses and ponies and all coped with the course well. Thanks must go to Lawrie Tyas for a great course and obstacle design. Huge thanks must go to our generous sponsors and trophy donors. The trophies were magnificent! Class winners went home laden with lovely trophies and cash prizes for our special 10th Anniversary event.

Thank you to all who supported us in any way! Special thanks to Kangra Equine Photography (Andrew & Katrine Graham) for supplying the photos for the Journal of the class winners.

Officials and Volunteers: Not enough can be said about the role of Officials and Volunteers at our carriage driving events. Officials have to go through the process of accreditation and reaccreditation as per the rules of the ACDS or whichever group they are associated with. This is done in their own time and at their own cost, often involving interstate travel and much reading and study. Most officials generously attend our events receiving no monetary gain, only claiming mileage and accommodation. As an organising committee we are hugely grateful for this as small clubs have limited funds. Spare a thought for our recent event on the weekend where it was sweltering heat on Sunday and freezing on Monday – as competitors, we only had to be exposed in it and concentrating while we were competing, the officials and volunteers were out there all day on both days. Many volunteers have nothing or little to do with horses or carriage driving, but continue to donate their time so we as competitors can enjoy the sport we love. Most are family and friends. To you we say THANK YOU! This article is a reminder and a thank you for all they do for us.

Officials - Dressage, Cones, TD, Course Designer, Ground Jury. Volunteers – Section Stewards (start and finish of each section), Vehicle Compliance, Vet Stewards, Pencillers, Dressage gate steward, Obstacle Stewards, Cones Stewards, Event Secretary, Scorer, Canteen Workers, sandwich and cake makers and of course setting everything up and taking it all down again after the event. I'm sure I've missed someone, but you get the picture. To all you wonderful Officials and Volunteers – THANK YOU and please keep doing what you do so well.

CLUB NEWS from TASMANIA

Jill can smile! Jill Cawsey, Secretary ACDS Tasmanian Branch driving Praze during judging at the Entally House D'Attelage. Photo: Felix Staub



IT HAS BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS in Tasmania for both clubs, however coolness is descending again, with everyone trying to get those last few outings in before its just too chilly.

Tasmanian Horse Drawn Vehicle Foundation.

CARRIAGES AND MUSEUMS have been pre-occupied most of our energies over the past few months. As you may remember from last issue, our museum needed relocating, and while we thought we had one ;in the bag' at the last minute it all went pear-shaped. The old museum home was giving us some pressure to move, and with nowhere immediately visible, things weren't looking good. However, as often happens, right at the last minute a chance conversation with the new owner of Saddleworld Launceston saved the day.

Saddleworld had recently moved from its center of town location to a huge warehouse at Invermay. Lyn Radford, the new owner, had heard of our plight but thought we already had somewhere so hadn't actively pursued it, but now offered a mezzanine area above the shop as an area to display our wares. Woo Hoo! A quick Friday afternoon committee visit showed the potential of the site, an old refurbished wool-store with bucket-loads of character. The only problems were the area was being used as a storage room, Michael and David were due to leave for the ACDS Australian CDE Championships in Bungendore on the Monday, the weather over the next few days was predicted to be rubbish at best, and, to top it off, the owner of the present museum site had sold his house and was looking to use where the carriages were as storage until he found a new home. Some quick negotiating from everyone and a promise to move the museum with urgency as soon as we returned appeased the thunder gods and away we went.

Returning from Bungendore, Michael and David made a hasty visit to check with Lyn - great! All the boxes of stock had been moved, a few phone calls to arrange access and the move was on. Over Friday, Saturday and Tuesday and with the help of Chris and Janice all the carts have been relocated. A huge thank you must also go to Suzanne and Norma for giving the carts a quick wash down before they were lifted into place.

There is still a swag of work to be done before the museum is opened. First and foremost, there needs to be some stairs put in place – Lyn has these arranged and they just need delivering and installing, then comes the actual setting up of the displays, safety barriers, etc, but hopefully all should be up and running in the not too distant future.

Fun days at Entally House are still on, Wednesdays and Sundays weather permitting. Work is happening there also, with some stalls going in and fencing plus some track-work happening making this an even more safe and fun place to visit and drive our ponies and horses.

On a personal note, thank you to Dot and Doug Willcoxson for putting Michael and I up for a 10 days at the CDE Championships. What a week that was – perfect weather, great fun, learnt heaps, met fantastic people, walked a few kilos off (not a bad thing), had a ball. Thank you also to the competitors and organisers for putting on a great show. Well done. Something for Ripley and I to aspire too.

David Potter

Northern Tasmanian Driving Society.

AUSTRALIA DAY DRIVE IN WYNYARD. A good turnout with Maryl driving *Sophie* with Peri as her groom, Graham drove *Polly* with Rhoda as his groom, Tam drove *Minty*, Gwenda drove *Matrix*, Stephanie drove *Troy* and Andy and David came along with *Phoenix*, and Ruth driving *Boy* with Wynter as her groom. Some of the streets were quite busy but all the horses took it in their stride as usual. Many of the residents came out to see what was going on and looked surprised to see the carriage horses going down their streets. Gwenda, Tam and Stephanie caught up with us at the care home which we visit every Australia Day, the residents all love to see the horses; Stephanie made some of the resident's day even brighter by taking them and their carers for a carriage ride.

From there we headed for the main street of Wynyard and drove through the centre of Wynyard, *Boy* cantered most of the way, he was enjoying himself. Once we reached the IGA, we turned off the main road and travelled back to our home grounds via the back streets. This drive was one of the biggest group turn outs to drive out in a very long time. Just loved it.

WARATAH TOWN DRIVE & CONES DAY. Graham, Stacey and Ruth arrived at the cricket grounds in Waratah at 8:35, followed by Maryl, Jill, Clive and Chrissie. While we were unloading our ponies Gwenda and Wayne were setting up a cones course. The wind was quite strong and was blowing the balls off. It was decided that we would do the town drive first then come back and drive the cones course.

We were all geared up and ready to go by 10:00. We had a lovely drive, driving the streets of Waratah. On the way back Maryl decided that she would like a coffee, so she drove up to where the petrol pumps are at the general shop and luckily one of the workers was putting out the rubbish, so Maryl asked for a coffee. He took her money and delivered her coffee. From there we drove back nice and gently so Maryl's coffee didn't spill.

Once back at the cricket grounds Gwenda explained that the cones course was set up as two large circles. Gwenda and *Minty* drove the course first, then Ruth and *Boy*, followed by Jill and *Willow*, Maryl with *Sophie*, Chrissie and *Dolly* and Graham and *Polly* drove it last. It was a little challenging for Ruth with *Boy*, as *Boy* hadn't been worked since the Australia Day drive, he was acting like a two year old. The course was driven several times by all drivers and a BIG thank you to Wayne and Clive for picking up the cones that were run over.

There were quite a few interested members of the public who came and watched us and asked questions. One gentleman asked Graham if we were giving rides as his friend from China loved horses but as there is nowhere in China to see them, so Graham offered the lady a ride. Then a few more asked if they could have a ride so we all ended up giving a few rides and they were so thankful. Gwenda had given a group of four children a ride and then asked them to help by collecting the cones and putting them on the back of her carriage. The four children were a great help and they appreciated the ride. It was a fantastic day and the weather was very kind to us.

Ruth Butler

2018 VICTORIAN CD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hot Competition!

AS THEY OFTEN DO, the Carriage Driving Trials Club organised yet another highly successful event with the 2018 Sallan Realty Victorian Combined Driving Championships at their Koonoomoo Recreation Grounds, northern Victoria, early in March. It was marvellous preparation for members intending to compete at the Australian Combined Driving Championships over Easter at the Witwood carriage driving facility near Braidwood in NSW. Hot dry weather brought its own challenges for organisers and competitors alike. Copious amounts of bottled cold water had to be stacked in the canteen refrigerators. Fortunately, this venue does offer plenty of shade in the camping area.

Such is the esteem in which this event is held that competitors came from four states – South Australia, New South Wales, Northern Territory and of course, Victoria. The Ground Jury comprised Val Blows (SA), Nola Robertson and Cheryl Drummond (both NSW) and Anne Robertson (Vic). The TD was Tony James (NSW) and Assistant Technical Delegate was Belinda Drury (Vic). The Course Designer was Dr Rob Robertson (Vic) who produced advanced obstacles for both the marathon and cones competitions. The Event Director was Joe Byers and Event Secretary was the amazing Merryn Byers who even organised a complimentary bag of horse-feed for every competitor!

All horses and ponies passed the First Horse Inspection on the Friday afternoon. As did the late-comers on the Saturday morning which dawned fine and warm for the dressage competition - but not hot enough for the dressage judges to relax the ‘jackets rule’.

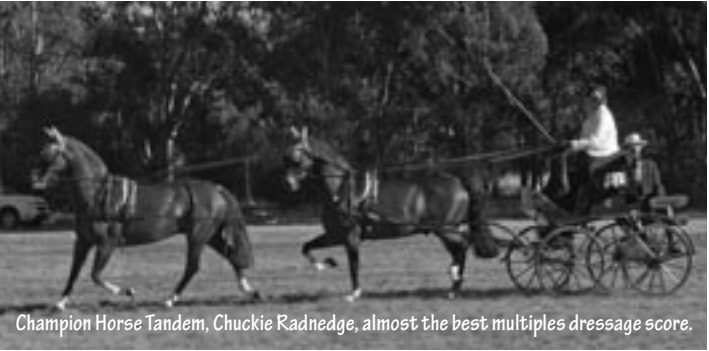
Best scores in the Novice Dressage Arena were: Ruby Lawrence (NLP) 39.50; Yvonne Brown (NLP) 40.00; Tracey Touhy (NSP) 51.50; Heidi Murphy (NLP) 52.00; Ty Nichols (NH) 53.50; Kirsty Blake (NSP) 54.50. Best scores in the Open/Intermediate Arena were: Lorraine Cairns (OH) 29.60; Michelle Jones (OH) 38.08; Vicki Stevenson (ISP) 44.42; Bernadette Lewis (ISP) 46.74; Phil Marshall (PP) 57.76; Graham Martin (ISP) 58.11; Rachel Haslau (P4) 60.80; Elizabeth Lawrence (P4) 61.28; Karen Rogers (PT) 62.08; Chuckie Radnedge (HT) 62.08.

The marathon course was set on flat, undulating country and comprised a 6.8km Section A; a 1km Walk Section and a 9.0km Section E for a total of 16.8kms. As the temperature was expected to exceed 35C degrees, organisers decreased the speeds for all three sections, allowing an extra two minutes for all classes in Section A, an extra minute in the Section D Walk and an extra three minutes in Section E. They also boosted the water supply at the 10 Minute Rest Area at the end of Section D so that buckets could be filled rapidly. These strategies proved effective as heart rates at the End of D and 30 minutes after the end of E were well below the maximums allowed.

Best Marathon scores were: Kirsty Blake (NSP) 75.75; Andrew Pollock (HP) 83.87; Michelle Jones (OH) 85.55; Yvonne Brown (NLP) 88.53; Linden Barrey (NLP) 96.49; Nicole Linic (P4) 102.39; Elizabeth Lawrence (P4) 102.71; Rachel Haslau (P4) 109.55; Tracey Touhy (NSP) 111.88. Testament to the quality of the pony team drivers sees their scores comparable to the pony singles!

At first glance the cones course didn’t appear to be too difficult but it did provide a challenge – yielding no double clear rounds! Designer Dr Rob Robertson decorated the course by including the letters ‘VIC’ (Victoria) through which competitors could drive (penalty-free if knocked) to shorten their course or improve their approach to the next set of cones. Surprisingly, some chose not to. Looking at the scores one would think that the times were too tight but both the TD and the Designer walked generous lines with the measuring wheel and came up with almost identical distances. A contributing factor could be that the course did contain two ‘Waves’ and a Zig-Zag and numerous offset cones. Organisers were very disappointed to discover (fortunately!) that overnight a ‘D’ element of one of the wave obstacles had been moved a couple of metres closer and the paint markers scrubbed out! The start bollards had also been swapped over so that the red and white markers were incorrect.

Best cones scores were: Linden Barrey (NSP) 3.00; Ned Andrew (NSP) 6.56; Vicki Stevenson (ISP) 7.39; Lorraine Cairns (OH) 12.20; Bernadette Lewis (ISP) 14.11; Karen Rogers (PT) 14.43; Peter Dunn



(NLP) 17.05; Ruby Lawrence (P4) 18.00; Phil Marshall (PP) 18.23; Nicole Linic (P4) 18.43; Tracey Touhy (NSP) 20.45; Kirsty Beecroft (NSP) 22.26; Gavin Robson (P4) 22.30; Michelle Jones (OH) 23.19. As severely as the cones course did inflict penalties, it didn’t directly affect the leading place-getters in any class.

Class Champions were: Class 1. Novice Pony 91cm & u 121cm: Kirsty Blake. Class 2. Novice Pony 121cm & u 149cm: Yvonne Brown. Class 3. Novice Horse o 149cm: David Cockcroft. Class 4. Intermediate Pony 91cm & u121cm.: Bernadette Lewis. Class 9. Open Horse o149cm: Michelle Jones. Class 10 Pony Pair 91cm ne 149cm: Mandy Lawrence. Class 11. Horse Pair o149cm: Andrew Pollock. Class 12. Pony Tandem 91cm ne 149cm: Karen Rogers. Class 13. Horse Tandem o 149cm: Chuckie Radnedge. Class 14. Pony Team 91cm & u149cm: Nicole Linic.

Breaking new ground in Victoria, this Organising Committee deserves more credit for organising a Level 4 CDE in conjunction, for those who hadn’t qualified for the championships. This drew an extra ten entries. A feature of this event was the entry of a horse from the Northern Territory driven by Margie Bowen in its first competition. Results of the Level 4, with their placings in each of the three competitions were: L4 Novice Pony 91cm &u149cm: 1st Kookie Engelsman 1, 1, 2, 181.24 penalties; 2nd Val Wooley 3, 2, 3, 229.23; 3rd Wendy Hughes 4, 3, 1, 369.82. L4 Novice Horse o149cm: 1st Natasha Pettingill 1, 1, 2, 140.74; 2nd Jennifer Nichols 2, 2, 1, 147.67; 3rd Margie Bowen 3, 3, 3, 309.97. Introductory Multiples 91cm & Over: 1st Margaret Sperrin 1, 1, 2, 174.92; 2nd Bruce Hammond 2, 2, 1, 187.53.

At an impressive prize-giving, Event Secretary Merryn Buyers thanked officials and judges and thanked all the sponsors including: major sponsor Sallan Realty, Sally H Photography; Australian Performance Horse Magazine; Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society; Mornington & Grampians Harness Club; Bob Bextrean & Phil Allen Plasterers; John Oxley Chaff; Bill Watson Engineering; Archie Howard Electrical; Yarroweyah Service Station; Sarsfield Sharpening; Oaklands Horse & Carriage Driving Club, Advanced Dairy Systems; Lording Estate.

Full championship results were: Novice Pony 91cm & u 121cm: 1 Kirsty Blake 157.25. 2 Tracey Touhy 183.83. 3 Kirsty Beecroft 198.53. 4 Prue McKechnie 247.96. Novice Pony 121cm & u 149cm: 1 Yvonne Brown 155.53. 2 Linden Barrey 170.99. 3 Peter Dunn 197.34. 4 Julie Mackay 219.14. Novice Horse o 149cm: David Cockcroft 235.32. 2 Angela Gray 257.22. Intermediate Pony 91cm & u121cm.: 1 Bernadette Lewis 186.34. 2 Graham Martin 198.59. Open Horse o149cm:1 Michelle Jones 146.82. Pony Pair 91cm ne 149cm: 1 Mandy Lawrence 244.70. Horse Pair o149cm: 1 Andrew Pollock 177.85. Pony Tandem 91cm ne 149cm: 1 Karen Rogers 193.83. Horse Tandem o 149cm: 1 Chuckie Radnedge 260.25. Pony Team 91cm & u149cm: 1 Nicole Linic 189.78. 2 Elizabeth Lawrence 196.10. 3 Rachel Haslau 207.51. 4 Rhianon Damsma 220.31.



CLUB NEWS from VICTORIA



BHPC drivers at Koonoomoo.

Bellarine Pleasure Harness Club

MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BUSY, not only Combined Driving also showing and judging around the local shows and some Graded Dressage Qualifiers. The Club has also had a great fundraiser, several of our most active members took time out and turned their hand to catering for the Dachshund Derby, the big annual event for one of the other groups who share our home ground Victoria Park in Inverleigh.

BHPC held its annual L3 CDE and VSE 3 Phase Competition on February 24th & 25th, the first Victorian CDE of the 2018 season. Our ever-popular event was very well supported again with 39 drivers with an impressive 12 BHPC entries. Elizabeth Lawrence drove her pony team winning the Pony Team Class. Wendy Hughes also brought out her new pony, *Cherwood Moscato*, to compete hors concours. It was very good to see the Very Small Equine 3 Phase Event, held in conjunction with the CDE, gaining some more support. These little guys are so popular now and drivers are beginning to discover what fun and variety is on offer for ponies under the allowed CDE minimum height limit.

Victorian CDE Championships and L4 Event at Koonoomoo on 10th, 11th and 12th March. BHPC members were well represented with 9 club members competing, as usual the weather was hot, but all competitors were well prepared, and every horse passed the marathon vet checks with flying colours. Nicole Linic was successful winning the Pony Teams Class with her 4-in-hand of skewbald ponies, they are the smallest ponies in the class, but they gave everything for Nicole to come from behind by winning the marathon and the cones. Elizabeth Lawrence won the dressage and came second with her pony team. Kirsty Blake, a relative newcomer to CDE turned her showjumper's experience to good use with the best score overall for the marathon, she won the Novice Small Pony class with Christa Jones, Colin Mathieson and Ned Andrew all competing in this well supported class. Julie Mackay was fourth in the Novice Large Pony Class driving her new young pony *Poppy*, with Ruby Lawrence who won the dressage in their class. Wendy Hughes came third in the L4 Novice Pony Class.

Australian CDE Championships and Level 4 Event at Braidwood, NSW on 31st March – 2nd April. We saw Elizabeth Lawrence and her children set a great example of what a wonderful family sport is Carriage Driving with Liz winning the Pony 4-in-hand class, her daughter Ruby Lawrence winning the Novice Large Pony Class, and her son Ned Andrew winning the Novice Small Pony Class. The dedication shown by the Lawrence / Andrew family and their support team is truly awesome, just the logistics of moving seven ponies, six carriages and all the people and equipment needed to put on such a great performance is a massive effort. Also making the long trip up to NSW were Nicole Linic who came fourth in Pony Teams and Julie Mackay who did very well to come first in the L4 Novice Pony Class.

Oaklands CDE at Greenvale on 28th and 29th April. With the days rapidly growing shorter most drivers have already turned their woolly horses out, BHPC was represented here by Julie Mackay, with her husband Don grooming, who drove *Poppy* to come second in the Novice Large Pony Class.



Rob Broek, Charlie and Mike Thill.

Benalla and District Horse Driving Club

THE BENALLA AND DISTRICT Horse Driving Club had a great training clinic at Oxley Recreational Reserve with Mike Thill on 7th and 8th April 2018. The weather offered cool foggy mornings opening up to afternoons bathed in sunshine. A number of participants who trained with Mike went onto compete at the Driven Dressage Championships held at Maffra, with great success. Our own Kirsty Beecroft won the Preliminary Singles Class while Pam Salter from the North East Border Club won the Novice Singles Class. Congratulations Kirsty and Pam.

The club also ran another Oztrec and other activities on the 5th and 6th of May. Club members and others had a wow of time navigating through the various obstacles and improving their driving skills.

At the end of the event some took the opportunity to exchange chocolate cake recipes which topped off a fun filled weekend.

Jack Wind

Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club

ON THE 10th, 11th, and 12th March 2018, Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club hosted the Sallan Realty CDE Championships on their home grounds at the Koonoomoo Recreation Reserve, Koonoomoo. CHDTC members have spent many hours working towards the championships, the support from our sponsors was greatly appreciated, over 60 businesses helped us with support in many ways to make the event possible. Entries from NT, TAS, NSW, SA and Vic were received which included six pony teams. As one driver commented it was the most teams seen at an event for a long time. Our generous sponsors gave us the opportunity to give every driver a bag of feed, an equally supportive local orchardist provided us with free freshly picked apples and plums bags of fruit was delivered each morning all the drivers seemed to enjoy having beautiful fresh fruit available.

The weather as to be expected early March was on the warm side, CHDTC provided the dressage judges with gazebos which helped keep them cooler. Sunday was warm but with extra sectional times and drivers driving to the conditions all the horses vetted in well. The small single pony drivers had the assistance of a steward at the end of D to help them with their ponies, offering them water and sponging them down if required. Sunday night following the event dinner, drivers were entertained by Mick Brennan a local musician; good food, good music, good fun had by all. The CHDTC would like to thank everyone who helped with the event, our sponsors, stewards, judges, members and of course the competitors.

Merryn Byers

Central Highlands Pleasure Harness Club

DRIVEN DRESSAGE QUALIFIER: Central Highlands hosted a dressage qualifier the 24-25th of March. Over the weekend there were 20 entries in preliminary, and three in novice and two in advanced. It was truly all creatures great and small, ranging from Lorraine Cairns' big Dutch harness horse *Victor*, to Eileen Perry's exuberant mini *Ace*. VSEs (very small equines) were well represented, and placed first and second in preliminary dressage on day 1, and first on day 2. Julie Wilson and her pony *Rupert* won the club prize for the highest single dressage

score for a VSE, a lovely navy and red cotton combo sponsored by Denzildon Harness Horses. The club would like to thank dressage judges Madeleine Bentley and Dawn Walter for their efforts. Cones judge Karen Rogers designed a course that was both kind and educational for drivers with a Start/Finish in the centre, and a layout that encouraged drivers to look for direct lines. While the weather was not always kind, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. And for those who were at the grounds on Saturday, who can forget the amazing cloud formations when the front came through!

HOSTING PHIL MARSHALL 7-8 April: CHPHC hosted Phil Marshall again for lessons, and again at the lovely Goornong Reserve. On the Saturday Phil had participants working on basics, establishing bend, rhythm and tempo. On Sunday that practice was applied to dressage tests. For some participants, this was a first attempt at movements such as three loop serpentine and deviations. Watching the lessons was instructive as well. Thanks to Hilary Billett for organising the lessons and use of the reserve.

CHPHC DEMO hosted by Kerang Pony Club: On Sunday the 29th of April CHPHC presented an introduction to carriage driving, hosted by the Kerang Pony Club. Hilary Billet brought a ute full of top quality show driving harness and a show vehicle to explain show turnouts. Vic Jerman with *Casper*, and Jan Moore with her team *Mason* and *Tinker* demonstrated harnessing and hitching. Eileen Perry brought *Ace* and *Shadow* to allow for some hands on long reining. After lunch, Jan Moore and Vic Jerman ran their horses through a cones course and a marathon obstacle, affording some of the pony club members a chance to see the course from the groom's viewpoint. With any luck, some of the young riders may be inspired to become young carriage drivers as well.

Eileen Perry

Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club

FEBRUARY WAS A BUSY MONTH for the club. We held a two-day driven dressage qualifier which was well attended by EVPHC members and other clubs from afar. On the Saturday night we also had a trivia night and silent auction that was hosted by our president Tom Dowling and Cheryl. Great fun was had by all and lots of prizes were won! Fantastic money spinner for the club and all the proceeds went to improving our equipment. We also had our first attempt at the freestyle to music. Heidi Schmitter and myself competed and we had so much fun and the audience appreciated the entertainment. So much so we are going to repeat it at the state driven dressage championship that our club are hosting in April. Much time and effort has been put into the planning of the State and National championships and we are anticipating the event to be a great success.

In March we had a Phil Marshall Clinic and we all came away with new skills that we all plan to use in our next competition.

Leanne Prosser

Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society

GPHS HAS HAD A FEW BUSY MONTHS with the Bunyip Show and Driven Dressage at Eastern Vic Maffra. Congratulations to all who participated.

The clubs new arena is coming along nicely. Thank you to all who have attended our working bee days and there are still more to come. Lots of happenings for the club, on our rally days. We welcome new member Melanie Buckland and her pony *Kenny* to GPHS.

Jenny Cummins

Roberta Earley and Angus at the Victorian Dressage Championships.



Vanessa Smith driving Bel in the new water obstacle at Glenlyon.

Grampians Carriage Drivers

THE GRAMPIANS CARRIAGE DRIVERS are delighted to announce yet more new members joining our little club, swelling our ranks even further.

Our March Rally was lessons with Phil Marshall and as always, well attended. Regular driving lessons are paying off for our members with our two newest recruits finishing their lessons with big smiles on their faces. Everyone is looking forward to the June Phil Marshall Rally.

Participants at our April Rally discovered and remembered the fun to be had in driving a well designed Pleasure Pattern Course, while our May Rally enjoyed our first away day at the beautiful Glenlyon recreation Reserve. This was organised through Pam Armstrong who had the inside knowledge of the professionally designed water obstacle being filled the previous day event. It was a well attended rally with GCD Inc drivers all taking advantage of this opportunity to experience and train their ponies going through water and the park like surrounds. Many thanks to you, Pam.

Katrina Westerhoff

Lakes and Craters Horse Driving Club

THE WEATHER has caused some chaos for our monthly drives so far this year. January was cancelled due to a total fire ban. February was at Lake Bolac, a great location for a weekend camp but the bugs were far too friendly and when the wind and rain arrived everyone continued to smile and enjoy themselves. March was a Sunday drive in the Deans Marsh area that dumped a heap of rain on everyone just a couple of kilometres down the road, but everyone was dried by the wind that escorted them back. Despite the weather not being the best, all drivers and riders always have a smile, a laugh and a story to tell! Finally the weather was perfect for our April drive in and around the Inverleigh Nature Reserve.

Our latest club meeting saw a great gathering for a meal and a wonderful talk given by Roberta McGuire on her trek across Mongolia. The race covers over 1000kms in eight days, riding Mongolian horses. Every 30 to 40kms you change horse and spend some nights camping out with a family in their ger or else at the made up camps/stations. A detailed description that had us all enthralled.

Karyn Kelly

Mornington Peninsula Pleasure Harness Club

IMPRESSIVE MORNINGTON presence at the 2018 Driven Dressage Championships. Building on the participation and success of our drivers at the 2017 Victorian Championships that were hosted by our Club, members were delighted to hear that both the Victorian and National Driven Dressage Championships were to be held at Maffra over one big weekend with an evening of freestyle dressage to music. Our members had travelled to events and training days all over Victoria to gain experience and to qualify. Along the way they received a lot of feedback from helpful judges, met lots of people from different clubs and had many days out driving and practicing. There was also lots of clandestine secret practice with music playing as routines were perfected for Freestyle competition that was to be held for the first time under lights. When the weekend came we had 14 entries from our club, some competing at a Championship for the first time and others were seasoned campaigners driving experienced ponies and some with



Mandy Lawrence well prepared for a wet night. Helping Tracey Tuohy before the Freestyle to Music.

youngsters in their first year of competition. The Eastern Vic club had done a fantastic job with the organisation and their hospitality was second to none, most notable was the quality of the surface. The local football club has an oval that is just magnificent and they were kind enough to let us drive horses on it!

We are all looking forward to another season of carriage driving and dressage with new and old friends, a great way to see the country side and enjoy our horses.

Bernadette Lewis

Pioneer Country Harness Club

PIONEER COUNTRY MEMBERS sadly cancelled their Indoor weekend event at the end of May, due to surface upgrades in progress at the Tyntynder venue. Planned instead on that weekend is a TPR weekend at Nathalia. We plan to accommodate members and friends who wish to re-accredit and accredit as TPR stewards, as well as those who just want to have fun. Tracks and tasks are planned to raise heart rates for members to check. Hopefully it will be an opportunity for all to learn something. We believe it will again be a wonderful weekend, with shared lunch and good company to enjoy.

Margie Morgan

Southern Cross Harness Club

FIVE DAYS IN THE BUSH: Being the fine part of the year and a bunch of equine-lovers dedicated to being outdoors in the bush, Southern Cross Harness Club held a single day outing in February and weekend camps in both March and April 2018. The mosquitoes benefited mightily from all the flesh brought along for their feasting!

Four carts went out in January for a 17km circuit from Yarram to Woodside North and back. Catharina and Tony Versteeg dropped by and waved off Jenny O’Bree with *Volsung* and dog Teddy, Jane Reid with *Dixie* and dog Kaiser; Robyn Jones with *Bella*, *Flynn* and dog Buttons, and Fiona Mottram with *Daisy* plus dogs Texta, Ruffi and Miele. Steve, Jackson and Amalie Tiller accompanied us as passengers. We did a lot of trotting down winding tracks and were able to avoid the dirt roads in favour of bush trails much of the time. It was a hot day and the chocolate cake brought to share around to celebrate Robyn Jones’ 50th birthday was a bit worse for wear, especially in the icing department! On the last section coming home, we dropped back over the south side of the ridge. There were views of Bass Strait and the cooling afternoon sea breeze was very welcome. The bush is very dense and looked beautiful and lush despite the dry season. The eucalypt trunks, blackened from previous fires, contrasted sharply against the varied species of bright green undergrowth plants from little strappy-leaved ground covers up to tall banksias. The aroma was heady. This romantic interlude was abruptly interrupted by yells of “Snake” up ahead. Ooohhhh – not what you’d expect – young passenger Jackson Tiller had accidentally dropped his ‘Where’s Wally-lookalike’ toy snake out of the cart!

The March camp was held next to a dam at Stradbroke West. Again we had four carts going out. Steve Tiller and his family joined the club as members. Steve was thrilled to be loaned Celia Down’s Shetland *Turbo*

to drive given that Celia had broken her wrist in two places and was unable to come. Steve and the kids had a ball with him. Amalie and Jackson Tiller also took turns as passengers with Jane Reid who drove *Manuka* and Jenny O’Bree who drove *Volsung*. Anita Heath came as a passenger on Saturday afternoon with Fiona Mottram driving her mule *Callie* at the club for the first time though *Daisy* worked on the Sunday. To beat the heat we swam in the dam and came out covered in very sticky clay. Sunday was muggy and we went out early to try and beat the rain. We didn’t succeed and came home like a procession of drowned rats! The temperature dropped radically so we were chilled too. Somehow we still enjoyed the outing on mostly sandy tracks. Amalie cheered us up at morning tea by offering around cupcake birthday cakes and little Easter eggs.

There was a partly anxious air at this camp because Anita’s husband John had stayed home to nurse a very sick Clydesdale (which has fortunately since recovered) and although it was not a Total Fire Ban Day in our district, we were on edge with hot, dry conditions and electrical storms predicted. Last time we camped at this location there was mobile phone reception but on this weekend our phones didn’t work there. Consequently there were regular trips by car to a spot with reception to check weather and fire reports.

Four carts, a rider, numerous dogs and lots of visitors attended the April weekend camp in the Mullungdung Forest at Darriman. We enjoyed absolutely gorgeous autumn weather throughout, with the afternoon sunlight sending golden shafts down through the dense tree cover. Outings comprised circuits of approximately 16km on sandy tracks with several steep climbs and descents, including some deep creek gullies to be carefully negotiated. We do love a challenge! It is fabulous to watch the larger horses using their strength to canter up out of those creek beds.

Anita and John Heath brought their Shetlands *Billy* and *Polly* and chose to do a shorter route. Part-gypsy cob *Okeydoke* newly bought by Prue Hill attended for the first time. He was driven by Jane Reid with Prue as groom as he was not accustomed to the bush environment. Robyn Jones drove *Bella* and had *Flynn* alongside. Fiona Mottram came on the Sunday and drove mules *Callie* in the morning and *Daisy* after lunch. Lisa Rowley, home from FIFO work, rode *Stormy*. The Tiller family attended as passengers because *Turbo* was unable to attend and they are yet to purchase their own pony. Camp visitors included Celia Down (still healing her wrist), Lindy and Warren Holmes, David Reid (dispensing Italian pasta for dinner), Julie Wilson and Rebecca Nash. At least seven dogs kept us company!

Fiona Mottram

View over Fiona Mottram-owned mule Daisy - at right Jane Reid driving Manuka supervised by Sooty - at left Jenny OBree and Anita Heath waving - Jackson Tiller obscured.



Clockwise: Lyn Callaghan challenging the cones course. Left to right - First Horse Inspection – ground jury Dot Willcoxson, James Rooney and Jennifer Nichols in deep discussion with OVS Sandra Harbison. Course designer Peter Harkness with some of his crew over the past few months - Mark Rogers and Richard Harkness. Presentations under the marquee with all the flags flying.

THE GREENVALE CLASSIC, hosted by Oaklands Horse and Carriage Driving Club, took place from the 26th April to 1st May 2018 at Greenvale Equestrian Park in Victoria. The event was a combined ACDS, FEI and EA CDE with competitors from northern New South Wales, mid NSW, South Australia and Victoria travelling the long distance to compete. Officials for the event also travelled long distances with James Rooney, the international judge, arriving from Ireland, and together with Dot Willcoxson (POJ) (NSW), Jennifer Nichols (NSW), Cynthia Doherty (VIC) and Christine Gibbons (SA), ably took control of the event. Christian Iseli, the international TD travelled from Switzerland and was assisted by Karen Rogers (ACDS) and Ty Nichols (FEI/EA). A number of other officials travelled from SA and NSW including Sandra Harbison (OVS) and Andrea Webb (Chief Steward) as well as the Event Secretary, Cheryl Dowling, who travelled from eastern Victoria. It was a real international/ interstate/intrastate gathering.

The Greenvale Equestrian Centre is based near Melbourne airport in the City of Hume and is home to two adult riding clubs, a pony club and Oaklands Horse and Carriage Driving Club. For carriage driving, it has three all-weather arenas and six permanent obstacles. Further development of the centre is planned. The centre is also home to a large number of kangaroos and they were out in force in the early morning inspecting the dressage arenas and MOs.

Course Designer, Peter Harkness and his team spent many long weekends at Greenvale in the months leading up to the event ensuring the equestrian centre was ready for the event. With his team, the centre was well turned out, including flags from all bodies and countries represented at the event.

The Classic began with a dressage judge’s workshop on the Thursday conducted by James Rooney (who is also the British carriage driving dressage convenor) and Dot Willcoxson. On Friday, after the First Horse

Inspection, the FEI 1*event was conducted. On Saturday, ACDS, FEI 2*, and EA Participation classes commenced with dressage and cones being conducted.

The weather was kind for the three days of competition. Greenvale can be prone to big northerly winds but we were fortunate that there was little wind for the event and conditions were mild. Dressage was conducted on the large all-weather surface. Cones took place on the grass arena with an international level cones course designed by Peter Harkness. Drivers had to work hard to make time and drive clear. No competitor was successful in driving a double clear round.

Sunday was marathon day for ACDS, FEI 2*, and EA Participation classes. The first section took competitors out on designated tracks to the Twin Dams Paddocks of the Woodlands Historic Park and then back into the centre for the walk/transfer section before the commencement of the obstacles section of the marathon. The MOs had all been gated by the course designer to test the flexibility and concentration of both horse and drivers.

Given the event was a mixture of ACDS, FEI and EA classes, the marking of the course was a challenge for the course designer, with each of the different bodies having different marking requirements, which made the course inspection interesting for competitors who were not familiar with some course design requirements. It was a credit to the course designer that no-one was confused by the various markings.

Finally, on Monday an ACDS and EA course designer’s clinic was conducted by Christian Iseli and Peter Harkness.

It was great to see the comradery of all competitors, support persons and officials over the course of the event and it does show that these types of events can be run together.

Peter Lee

CLUB NEWS from WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Murray District Carriage Driving Club March CDEs

MURRAY CLUB held two Level 3 CDEs on one weekend. There hasn't been a CDE in WA for four years, but Murray Club has held plenty of 3 Phase events over this time. On the March weekend there were 24 competitors, of those there was over 60% that had never competed in a CDE. We also had to keep in mind that many other competitors had very green horses. With all the new drivers and ponies in mind the marathon times were posted on the Tuesday night before the event so drivers could calculate their times at home and to get assistance if required. The TPR stewards were drivers and others that had recently completed the TPR course allowing them to get some practice.

Competition One started at 11.00am with the trot up, the dressage and cones started at 1.00pm. We were lucky to have Val Blows and Christine Gibbons from South Australia judging the dressage, John Carr from Western Australia judging the cones and Karen Rogers from Victoria as the TD. The marathon started at 8.00am it was 10.8kms in total with five MOs, going from A-D.

The competitors were very aware that the time schedule was very tight and with self-stewarding, they all had jobs and responsibilities. Our

competitors need to be praised for the efficiency with which they did their jobs and being on time for their competition.

Competition Two started at 1.30pm Sunday afternoon with the dressage, the drivers driving the same dressage test. The cones course was altered but the drivers drove well. The marathon started at 8.00am Monday morning, again the marathon was 10.8kms with five MOs from A-D.

Murray Club is very lucky to have two very good scorers that have created their own scoring programme which worked extremely well, with all scores out within 15 minutes of the sheets being submitted. All scores for both events were posted when the last horse was TPR checked.

It was a very busy but rewarding weekend for the drivers and organisers. The drivers achieved their personal goals, with very positive outcomes. Thankyou to the drivers, officials, volunteers and club members for making my job easy.

Regards

Sandy Elliot Event Director/Secretary

Photos by Virginia James & Eddie Srblin Photography.



Cherry McCall - London Park Welsh Dragon. Photo: Eddie Srblin



Amanda Colli - Equus Lodge Stella. Photo: Virginia James



Naimh Tester - Trapalanda Quo Vadis. Photo: Virginia James



Amanda Igoe - Black Cyril. Photo: Virginia James



Vicki Lee - Millee. Photo: Virginia James



Virginia James - Toby. Photo: Sam James



Jan Tittbrook - Narcoola Park Baldwin. Photo: Virginia James

WILD WEST SHOW

WHEN WAHDS Secretary Natalie Morris suggested we hold a Wild West Show the idea was initially met with wide eyed stares, but gradually the idea took hold and the resulting turnouts were just amazing.

Jon Kelly (whose job is actually a Chef) turned up in full cowboy gear and a wagon converted into a chuck wagon. Great detail had gone into this turnout with all types of accessories attached to the wagon. This was the first outing for Jon's new pony *Ellenbank Paso Doble (Winston)* and his behaviour was impeccable especially given the occasional clanging of all the implements hanging from the chuck wagon.

Dawn Maton and Margaret White (renowned for some amazing costume themes) teamed up with a donkey pair *Wilbur* and *Louis* to follow the theme of pioneers complete with supplies in their covered wagon and a babe in arms. The overall picture was outstanding with the little boys looking the part.

Sassy cowgirl Liza Doney stuck a very pretty picture with her lovely



Left to right: Chef Jon Kelly and Ellenbank Paso Doble with the chuck-wagon. Liza Doney and her Shetland stallion Rowallan Precedence. Dawn Maton and Margaret White with donkeys Wilbur and Lewis. Photo: Keith Langan.

stallion *Rowallan Precedence* which she kindly loaned to President Merle Turner to compete in the Driver class.

Donna Reader took on the role of Miss Kitty the saloon owner resplendent in purple and took the drunken sheriff on board for the afternoon, who really didn't react much to the event going on around him.

Judge Margaret Marwick joined in the theme of the day but was a little concerned about being held up with a pistol and having blue ribbons demanded from her.

All in all a great afternoon was had by all with heaps of humour, laughs and banter between the competitors. An event that is sure to be held again. Thanks to Keith Langan for taking photos on the day.

Avon and Hills Dressage and Cones Day

AVON AND HILLS CDC Inc held their first official dressage and cones day at their new grounds on the 11th February, the arena looked very professional with its new surface down and the spectators could enjoy watching in the shade ring side. Though the temperature started to rise, there was plenty of shade to keep cool as nine competitors competed in either Preliminary, Novice or Elementary.

The new surface still needs some time to settle and there were a few soft spots but regardless there were some lovely tests driven with Niamh Tester winning the first Preliminary test with her lovely Part Welsh gelding *Trapalanda Downs Quo Vardis*. The second Preliminary test proved to be very exciting and close with Niamh and *Quo* gaining equal first with Di Hunter and her Miniature Horse *Yarraman Top Montana*.

In the pairs, Glenda Stow and her two lovely ponies *Jejucha Twilight* and *Foxglove Tarquin* won both their tests, as did Tracey Hunter and her pocket rocket Miniature gelding *Keeny Park Moonlight Shadow* in both the Novice tests. Jorgen Nielsen drove an Elementary test for his second one with *Guiness* to gain a very creditable score of 62.78% for first place. Tracey Hunter and *Keeny Park Moonlight Shadow* won the highest percentage of the day with a 70.16%

In the afternoon the cones course was set up by Glenys Wicks and her wonderful helpers. Drivers had two turns at the cones course, the first being the official course and then a lot of fun with the odds and evens course. Doddy Goile came out overall winner in the singles and Glenda Stow in the doubles.

Congratulations to all the winners who received a lovely winning plaque and to all the other drivers that drove some lovely tests which showed in the closeness of the scores.

Huge thanks must go to Tracey Hunter for setting this day up, to Glenys Wicks for running the cones, to our two lovely judges Marg Langan and Sandy Elliott and to the fantastic effort of the Avon members for setting it all up. We are looking forward to our next Dressage and Cones day on the 17th June.

Photos by Nicole Lockyer Photography. Clockwise from the top: Jenny Smith and Ziggy. Di Hunter and Yarraman Top Montana. Jorgen Neilsen driving Kineey MacGuiness. Janet Smith and Judaroo Picasso. Doddy Nielsen and Minstral Bagatelle.

Planning input sought for ACDS 50th Anniversary

Those of us who remember the fantastic ACDS 40th Anniversary events hosted by Southern Highlands Carriage Club at Bundanoon in 2011 will possibly be surprised to learn that the ACDS’ 50th Anniversary is only three short years away!

Federal Council is seeking to appoint interested members to a working group whose task will be to carry out preliminary planning for 50th anniversary celebrations – possible events and activities, venues, organisers etc – all ideas are welcome but we need to start the planning process now.

If you are interested in contributing your time and ideas to the working group, please contact the Federal Secretary.



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JOE HAWKINS CUP L3 CDE hosted by Riverina Carriage Driving Society

Photos by Alison McDonald



WELSH Ponies & Cobs

THE BREED FOR ALL THE FAMILY



Rhiannon Damsma driving Team Damsma's four Welsh Mountain Ponies at the ACDS 2018 Skye Park Combined Driving Championships, conducted by the Bungendore Carriage Driving Club assisted by the Southern Highlands Carriage Club. The two Wheelers are Westbury Dior (chestnut)(sire: Westbury Hercules), and Mosman Park Vienna Woods. The two leaders are Mosman Park Fairytale (near side) and Mosman Park Sugar Plum. The Mosman Park ponies are all by Nattai Calon Lan. Photo: Linda Mace.

The Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc

A National organisation registering and promoting the Welsh Breeds for all disciplines.

There are Regional Promotional Groups throughout Australia

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