

**AUSTRALIAN**



# **Carriage DRIVING JOURNAL**



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Murroka Clydesdales & Demore Park's team of Clydesdales at the Sydney Royal. Photo: J Muspratt



# Australian Carriage Driving Journal



## From the Editor

**W**ELCOME to your June Journal, which I hope has something for everyone to enjoy.

Unfortunately our article on Bram Chardon's visit to Bundanoon, which appeared the March edition, may have caused some

concern; it has been brought to my attention that some may have interpreted part of the article as being negative towards Boyd Exell, and also that we incorrectly suggested Bram had won the World Championship in 2019; to clarify, it states in the article Bram won the 2019 FEI World Cup™ in Bordeaux, France, which was the Final of that competition. Bram won the World Pony Team Championship in 2013, as is also stated in the article, and hence the reference in the article's title.

The pages of this magazine have always supported Boyd Exell, celebrating and acknowledging his remarkable and hard-earned achievements, and I'm sure we will continue to do so. We also endeavour to support and acknowledge the success and contribution of others in the sport. As Editor I take responsibility for the content of the Journal and I apologise for any unintended offence or misunderstanding that may have arisen from this article.

With the introduction of colour pages into the Journal several years ago, we have been able to really showcase our sport more effectively. Having colour within the publication makes it more inviting to the reader and gives a professional 'edge'. As well as the many photos which are gratefully received from talented members and amateur photographers, we are also very fortunate to have a number of professional photographers who generously make their work available to the Journal at no cost.

At the risk of inadvertently leaving someone out, regular contributors include Andrew Graham of Kangra Photographics, Eddie Sriblin who provided excellent coverage of the recent National CDE Championships, Penny Heighes, Linda Mace, Rodney's Photography, Rustic Pics, Kylie Remaani Jones, along with UK photographers, Cathy Willis of Swingle-tree Photography, and Amy Mundell Equestrian Photography who provided the terrific shots from DVI in this issue. Thanks also to Campbell Sinclair of Silverfernphoto who provided the eventing image for our profile on Dylan.

I am very appreciative of their time and effort to produce and supply great photos, so please consider supporting their business by purchasing an image or two if they are at the same event as you.

The process of choosing an image for the Journal's cover is always a challenging and enjoyable one - photos have to meet certain technical criteria such as size, resolution, clarity etc to ensure the best possible reproduction in colour. We also try to make sure they present a suitable image from a carriage driving perspective, but our final criteria are a little more difficult to define - we look for images which catch and hold the eye, and which can convey the challenge and passion that comes with our sport. Our cover photo this issue by Kangra I think nails it - Carol Mercer driving her aptly named pony 'Cracker'!

Happy reading!

*Brendan Dwyer Acting Journal Editor*

## STOP PRESS!

**CONGRATULATIONS to ACDS Federal Show Driving Convenor Janet Muspratt who is a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) in the Queen's Birthday Honours list for services to horse sports, especially carriage driving.**

**A richly deserved honour Jan and we hope to provide more coverage in the next issue. Ed.**



*Front cover: Winner of the Level 4 Novice Small Pony at the Peterborough Classic run by GPCDA, Carol Mercer and her new pony 'Cracker'. Photo: thanks to Andrew Graham, Kangra Graphic Action.*

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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



**W**ELCOME to the winter edition of the ACDS journal. I hope it makes interesting reading for all members.

The last few months seem to have flown by and there have been plenty of driving activities for all members. There have been a number of pleasure and endurance drives, graded driven dressage events, shows and combined driving events. In addition, the indoor/outdoor season has started in Victoria and New South Wales, and clubs are running other activities for their members including OZ Treks. Congratulations to all the

Clubs who are working tirelessly to put on these events.

I was able to go to Western Australia to attend and assist the Murray Districts Club with the 2019 National CDE Championships. What great grounds they have access to at Dwellingup and the Club put on a terrific event. A number of drivers travelled from the Eastern States and South Australia to compete. Congratulations must go to Murray Districts Club, all competitors and volunteers.

I am currently writing this report from the Netherlands where I have attended Driving Valkenswaard International at the home of Boyd and Preetha Exell. There is a separate article on DVI so I will not repeat the article

other than to say congratulations to Team Australia, made up of Boyd, Elizabeth Lawrence who drove a horse team in a CDE for the first time; and Tor van den Berge who drove in the horse pairs.

Our annual conference is at Beechworth this year and we have a number of guest speakers. I encourage all members to attend and I would like to thank our Federal Vice President, Kate Wholagan for all the work she has put in organising the conference this year.

Recently we acknowledged our volunteers who ensure we can participate in the sport we love through International Volunteers Week. Following through with that theme, one of our key note speakers at the Federal Conference is Georgie Stayches from Fetching Events and Communications who will speak on volunteers; how to attract them; how to look after them; and how to keep them. Some Federal Council members attend a seminar with Georgie and it was extremely interesting.

At the conference, we have also invited Joann Formosa OAM - Gold Medalist at the 2012 London Paralympics, to be our guest speaker at the dinner on Saturday night.

The Federal Executive has also been working on the planning of the ACDS 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2021. We will be making some announcements about the events planned at the Conference. Please put Easter 2021 in your diaries now.

Finally, there are some of our members who have decided not to continue in roles at Federal level in 2019-2020, and on behalf of all members of the ACDS, I would like to express our thanks to them for the work they have put in on behalf of the membership.

*Peter Lee*



*Above left: Boyd Exell. Above right: Tor van den Berge. Below: Elizabeth Lawrence. Photos: Amy Mundell Equestrian Photography.*



# Election of Office Bearers for 2019-2020

Nominations received by the closing date of 15th April, 2019 are as follows:

**President:**

PETER LEE                      Nominated: Phil Marshall                      Seconded: Vicky Lee

As only one Nomination received, Peter Lee is elected as Federal President.

**Vice-President:**

KATE WHOLAGAN                      Nominated: Glenda Marshall                      Seconded: Sue Waters

As only one Nomination received, Kate Wholagan is elected as Federal Vice-President.

**Secretary:**

At the close of time for the receipt of nominations for the position of Secretary, no nominations had been received. Accordingly, the ACDS will seek nominations for this position off the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

**Treasurer:**

LEONIE HARTSHORNE                      Nominated: Debra Thompson                      Seconded: David Hartshorne

As only one Nomination received, Leonie Hartshorne is elected as Federal Treasurer.

**The Federal Executive position of Federal Secretary**

The Federal Secretary position has now been “divided” between two volunteers and the Assistant Federal Secretary.

In effect, there will be four persons sharing the work load, though only the Federal Secretary is on Federal Council and has voting rights.

The Assistant Federal Secretary shall take on all membership matters, renewal of the ACDS insurance, organising the 2020 Federal Annual General Meeting and all queries related to the aforementioned. So, anyone coming into the position of Federal Secretary should not be over faced by the work load.

The current Federal Secretary shall be on hand for the first twelve months to guide the new person through the requirements of the position.

- If you are interested in supporting the ACDS by nominating for the position of Federal Secretary, please contact the current Federal Secretary – Sue Waters.

## Federal Discipline and Council Appointments

The following positions are appointments made by Federal Council and are subject to annual review:

**Discipline Convenors**

- CDE
- Dressage
- Pleasure & Endurance
- Historical
- Show Driving

**Federal Council Appointments**

- Horse Registrar/Grading Officer
- Journal Managing Editor
- Coaching Co-ordinator
- Website Co-ordinator
- Young Driver Co-ordinator
- Merchandising Officer
- Publicity Officer
- Officials List Co-ordinator
- Public Officer for Incorporation (must be a resident of the ACT)
- Assistant Federal Secretary - Memberships

**Appointment to one of the following ACDS Subcommittees:**

- ACDS-EA Subcommittee
- ACDS Training & Schools Subcommittee
- ACDS Electronic Media Subcommittee

The following are available from the Federal President in relation to the above listed Federal Discipline and Council Appointments:

- Position Description/Terms of Reference
- Nomination Form/Code of Conduct

Members interested in applying for any of these positions for the 2019-20 year are requested to contact the **Federal President.**

***Peter Lee, Phone: 0418 361 096 Email: teampeterlee@gmail.com***

Sue Waters

Federal Secretary.



# Looking Back at Cones Courses

by Peter McIntyre

From the 'NSW Whip Around' March 2011

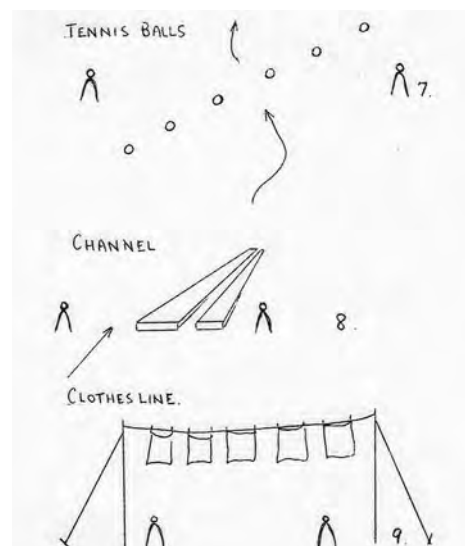
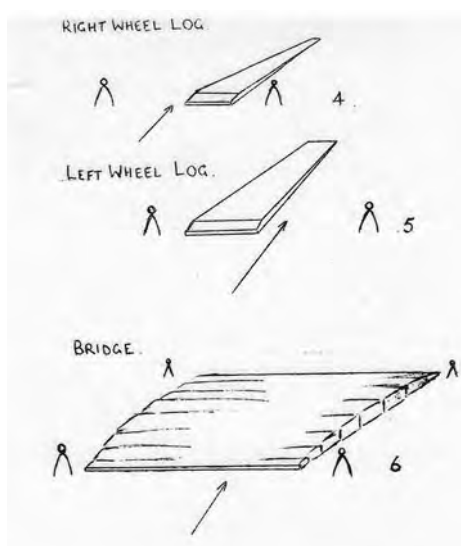
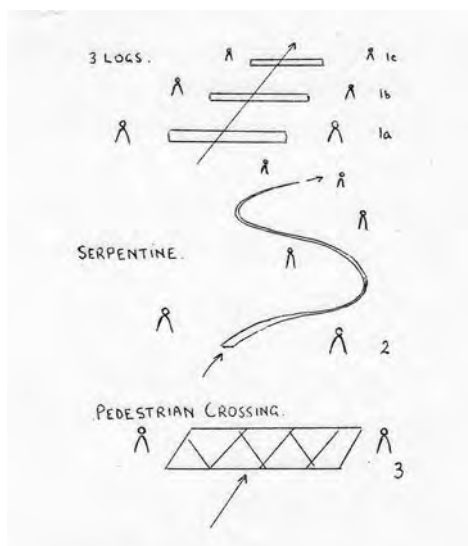
IN THE LATE SEVENTIES when I commenced CDE events, the cones courses were a challenge. The course builders in those days had a mind opposite to a horse's. Therefore anything in a course was allowed. Some of the interesting ones I remember were at Ellmore, Swan Hill, Tocal College Patterson, Parkes, Wyong, Kangaroo Valley, Bega and Wagga Wagga.

Our horses had to be trained to take on all sorts of frightening obstacles in the course. We were not told in the program what to expect. Cones were placed so that a step sideways cost you 5 points. Refusals were common, with horses spinning on their hind legs.

Here are a few of the obstacles we encountered: clothes lines with washing, two sleepers with a six inch gap between, yards with goats, lots of different water obstacles, plastic sheets, unseen cones over steep banks, right angle bends with an eight foot drop on one side, smoky fires, step logs and fire logs. How times have changed in the last thirty years!

*Below: Diagrams are from 'Guidelines for Obstacle Driving Contests' drawn up by Judy Dwyer c1973.*

*Right: Peter McIntyre in an MO at Marrar in 2011. Photo: Southern Equine Photography.*



## PLEASURE & ENDURANCE Peter Honeyman Federal P & E Convenor

IT WAS GREAT TO SEE BOTH Yalbraith and Ruffy Enduros went very well and had an average of 12 competitors at each event. Both were held in very warm conditions but the horses had no problems. Our Victorian P&E rep, David Cockroft did very well, running Victoria's first driven endurance event at Ruffy with the Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club. It was supported by South Australian, New South Wales and Victorian competitors in the 'Dash for the Green Sash'.

Our NSW P&E Rep, John Tonkiss has revamped the TPR Rules and Guidelines into a simple blanketed document that allows a TPR Steward to qualify as a Temperature, Pulse & Respiration Steward that can officiate at any event; CDE, P&E, or whatever. They are under the direction of the Ground Jury or Event organisers. This draft document has been sent out to the Federal Convenors, both CDE and P&E and State for their approval, input etc. When finalised, they will be put to Federal Council for their approval.

Well done and thank you John, it has the KISS approval.

I have also had a look at the P & E Guidelines and again John has updated into a draft document which I am very happy with. David Cockroft is looking at them at present as is Marilyn Piper, WA Rep. Unfortunately, none of the other states have Email or Reps to send to. Again, Thank you John.

Our next big events on the P & E calendar are Fifi Field Pleasure Drive, the last time this will be held at Fifi Field on 20th to 28th April, and the Ladies drive on 1st to 5th May. This will be the third drive held at Spring Ridge NSW by Liverpool Range Club members Vicki Donnelly and Christine O'Rourke, and has become extremely popular with the Ladies.

This will be followed by the Gulgong Club who are holding a one week drive on 22nd to 29th May, based at Armatree NSW. This will be a first for the club after finishing up the 20 year Henry Lawson Drive. It gives single drivers the chance

to attend as you do not have to move camp.

In July 13th to 15th, the Hunter Club will hold a Three Day Enduro, depending on how the drought is going.

September 21st to 28th will be the 10th Liverpool Range Harness Club Charity Drive to be held at Manilla and Attunga. This is another very popular annual drive, well attended and only has one move in the middle. Of course the big determining final factor in all these drives is water and how the terrible drought is going which has affected a lot of our members.

In amongst these drives will be the State AGMs, and the Federal Conference being held at Beechworth, Victoria which I hope will be attended by many drivers keen to support the ACDS and its workers, without whom you would not have a Society or Club or Events to attend.

Come to a meeting or Conference, you will be pleasantly surprised.

*Peter Honeyman  
Pleasure and Endurance Convenor.*

# RUFFY MINI ENDURO 2019

## 'Dash for the Green Sash'



Above: (L-R) David Cockroft, Peter Dunn and Tony Ingersole with their winning ribbons. Below: Drivers enjoying Devonshire Tea at The Odd Jug in Ruffy. LtoR: Peter Dunn, John Moyes, Alice Austin, Cath Cole.



Above: L-R) Debbie Dunn, Nicole Barry and Susan Fraser with their winning ribbons. Below: Tony Ingersole's mare May modelling her winning headstall kindly donated by Hero.



CHDTC held the Inaugural Ruffy Mini Enduro Drive. This was held from Maygar Park Recreation ground at Ruffy. This being a very picturesque ground with great facilities and well cared for by a wonderful team of local country people.

As a Club we were thrilled with the positive feedback from all drivers in the event and we learnt a lot along the way of how these type of events are run and enjoyed so much by those that participate. The catering that was available was spectacular and we thank our chefs for this job so well done.

We look forward to running another event in 2020 ( Long weekend in June) this being at our home ground of Koonoomoo as we feel and the participating drivers feel that we should keep the drives different and interesting. We are hoping that we will run again at Ruffy in 2021; both these drives we feel should be in the winter months as tracks are softer and temperatures are lower. The pleasure drive was also enjoyable and we encourage more drivers to come and enjoy the event.

David Cockroft has put the following report together of the event. Thank you David for your help in the running of this Great Ruffy Enduro and we look forward to repeat events. David also organized the wonderful trophies for the event; being a miniature of Ned Kelly they looked amazing. We would also like to thank Sharon Beattie for travelling from Temora to assist us with our TPR/Vetting of the event. Our drivers appreciated her encouragement and wise words throughout the event.

On Friday February 16th 2019, over 11 carriage

drivers from NSW, South Australia and Victoria gathered at Maygar Park, Ruffy, Victoria for the inaugural Ruffy Mini Enduro named the 'Dash for the Green Sash' and hosted by the Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club.

After all horses and ponies had passed the Friday evening Veterinary trot up, a competitors briefing held and a BBQ enjoyed we were all set for the Saturday track of 34kms. Setting off at two minute intervals, the first competitor starting at 8.30 am, drivers then ventured out through the village of Ruffy dashing along gravel roads and enjoying the spectacular scenery of the Strathbogie ranges to a halfway compulsory 30 minute rest stop. Then onward again through private property, creek crossings, shaded laneways and tar sealed roads back to Maygar Park where TPR steward Sharon Beattie measured heart rates and passed all horses and ponies.

Bushranger Ned Kelly once roamed these hills and when a schoolboy, he rescued a fellow schoolmate Dick Shelton from drowning in the flooded Hughes Creek at the nearby town of Avenel. In recognition of Ned's bravery Dick's father publicly awarded Ned a two meter long green silk sash with gold bullion tassels for having saved his son's life.

The 'Dash for the Green Sash' mini enduro is named in young Ned and Dick's honour. After the Saturday evening dinner the Ned Kelly trivia quiz seriously challenged even the local's knowledge of the Kelly gang.

Sunday and we head off in a different direction crossing Hughes Creek several times before reaching the halfway stop. Then through the

Gobur Nature Reserve to Terrip Terrip and back to Ruffy. Pleasure drivers then enjoyed a drive along nearby tracks in the afternoon followed by Devonshire Tea and a lovely meal.

The Monday drive was simply the Sunday drive driven in reverse. A 7.30am start was implemented as the weather was predicted to warm up. Horses and ponies still easily passed the TPR check once again, a credit to the drivers having their horses reasonably fit and demonstrating great horsemanship in driving the 100 kms over three days along sometimes challenging tracks without any mishaps, eliminations or anyone getting lost, partly due to and with thanks to our wonderful escort drivers and stewards who together with the fine summer weather made the drive so enjoyable.

At the Monday lunchtime presentations, the winner of the Green Sashes were for: Horse Class, May owned and Driven by Tony Ingersole NSW, Large Pony Class, *Cataraqui Magical Amulet* owned and driven by Linden Barrey, SA, Small Pony Class, Archie owned and driven by Susan Fraser, NSW. Fastest time over the course at 4hrs. 51 min 'on the track' and well deserved winner of the Ned Kelly perpetual trophy and also the HRV-Hero best Standardbred award went to Tony Ingersole with his horse May. The North East and Border Welsh RPG of the WPCSA sponsored the Best Welsh Pony award going to *Cataraqui Magical Amulet* owned by Linden Barrey of SA.

I hope that even more ACDS members can join us next time at Ruffy.

David Cockroft

ACDS Pleasure and Endurance Convenor Vic.



# The German TRAINING SCALE

## Part 9

We have covered the first five steps of the German Training Scale:

First - **TAKT** = **RHYTHM** and **REGULARITY**

then - **LOSSELASSENHEIT** = **FREEDOM** which includes

**RELAXATION.**

then - **ANLEHNUNG** = **CONTACT** which includes

**ACCEPTANCE OF THE BIT** and **SEEKING THE CONTACT**

then - **SCHWUNG** = **IMPULSION** and **ENGAGEMENT**

then - **GERADERICHTUNG** = **STRAIGHTNESS** which includes

**BENDING**

and now we are at -

Part II **VERSAMMLUNG** = **COLLECTION** including **Roundness**

**W**E TALKED in the last issue mostly about what we find in our rule books about collection, and since the word comes up only in the 'collected trot', which is only required at the intermediate level and above, it might have created the impression that lower-level drivers don't need any of this.

However, that is not the case. Any horse will benefit greatly from the complete Training Scale. Our aim is to train a horse that is willing and able to perform his work properly. For the horse to be able to do that, he must be in balance. For that, he must distribute his work evenly over all four legs. By nature, his front legs are burdened with more of his weight since they need to carry the weight of his neck, and far out on the end of that long lever, nature even attached another big weight, the head; whereas, the hind legs just need to carry the hindquarters and tail. Thus, we see horses at the beginning of their training 'on the forehand', carrying most of their weight on the front legs, and having their hind legs at times trailing behind, almost like a truck pulls a trailer behind.

So, one of our earlier steps was to get the hind end connected, or 'engaged', with the hind legs reaching more forward underneath the body to take up more of the body's weight in order to carry their fair share of the weight. We do this not only so the horse looks proper in his 'dressage frame', but also, and more so, so that he is in balance and, with that, is really a safer and more useful horse because he will stumble less over his front feet, and if he does stumble, then he will not fall down right away. Also, we want to do this so that his front legs are not worn out prematurely. This shifting of more weight to the hind end is the basic idea of collection.

To shift more weight onto the hind legs, all three of the hind-leg joints need to bend more, and the hind feet need to step further underneath the body. Each amount of extra weight that the hind legs take up lightens the load of the front legs. Since the hind legs need to bend more and be brought more forward, the steps are then more elevated and pronounced at the hind end; but the same also happens in front as the weight the front legs have to carry is now less, and thus they can move with greater ease.

Through systematic training, the muscles of the hindquarters - the engine of the horse - can become much stronger, enabling much more pushing power for engagement and impulsion from behind; whereas, the front legs are mainly designed to carry the front end but not so much to push the horse forward. When the hind end gets more underneath the body, the result is a lowering of the croup as the legs are bent more in their joints. I grant you that we don't often see much of that lowering of the croup in driving, the reason being that it is so difficult for the driving horse to achieve much collection. But this is the goal and sign of true collection - the lowering of the croup, together with the front end being lightened with the horse raising and arching his neck, which brings in that far-out weight of the head and helps in shifting the centre of gravity more to the hind end and results in shortening his frame. These are the signs of true collection with which he then can move in balance in what is called an 'uphill' manner, meaning that the front end of the horse is elevated while the croup is lowered. The start of that is already in any good engagement.

We have discussed in our chapters about contact as well as impulsion

*by Hardy Zantke*



and engagement - the basic steps for how to develop the forward thrust of the hind end, which is the route to collection. This cannot be forced by the trainer by pushing or pulling the horse 'into a frame' or by artificial training aids, such as a biting rig, but must be developed with a careful, steady, and elastic hand by driving the horse on the contact, by the careful use of half halts to make him take up more weight with his hind legs, and by careful whip aids to activate the hind legs even more. We must keep a soft feeling, with our hand helping the horse to always balance himself, as we ask for more push from behind. We cannot simply force the horse together by holding with a rigid hand in front and pushing with whip and voice aids from behind. That would not only make the horse very frustrated, but also would make his back rigid, and instead of working through the back and engaging the hindquarters, it would result in the opposite, blocking the hindquarters. The hind legs would not reach further underneath the body but would only move up and down under a rigid back.

That is not collection and proper training; that is the opposite. So, as we need to balance the horses, we must also find a careful balance with our hands. Done properly, the neck will be raised slightly, but should not be pulled up artificially by the driver's hand; instead, it should be raised and arched by the horse on his own to help shift the balance of the body further to the rear. The nose will go more on the vertical, the hind legs will take up more weight, and the horse will work with engagement and energy in balance. Our work at the previous step of straightness and bending in the Training Scale has also helped in the education of the horse toward collection, as there we have asked the inside hind leg in all turns to take up more weight, which now, for the collection, we need from both hind legs.

But, unfortunately, there are many ways that the training is done incorrectly. The fault most often seen, especially on lower levels, is that the horse does not go 'round'. Instead of working through the back, his back is stiff and hollow, his jaw is rigid, his nose is stuck out in front of him, and he leans on the bit with a big muscle bulge underneath his neck. That is a horse that has not learned to properly accept the bit or to stretch down and forward seeking the contact after a giving hand. Usually, that is a horse that is not relaxed and has developed the wrong muscles underneath his neck. We would need to go back to an earlier step of the Training Scale and work on freedom and relaxation as well as contact, and only when we have mastered those, can we go on to impulsion and engagement.

We should also keep in mind that, when we say the horse must stay relaxed through all of our demands, we must never confuse relaxation with being lazy. The horse must actively work forward. For proper roundness - and even more so for collection - the horse needs to stretch his top line and arch his back upward, which results in a shortening of his bottom line. False collection with a horse pulled together artificially does the opposite; the back becomes hollow, thus the top line shortens and the bottom line becomes longer. This would also happen when using over-checks, sidechecks, or biting rigs to force a horse into a 'frame'. Instead of taking up more weight with the hind legs, in false collection, even more weight is on the front legs, his withers are pushed down instead of elevated, and his hind legs are not engaged but just moving up and down. This is also what will happen when a horse is asked for collection when he is still too young for it, and has not yet developed the correct muscles to carry himself properly for any collection. It takes years to build up a horse's muscles enough, and not only does he need to develop his hindquarters for it, but he also must develop his shoulder muscles - especially so for a driving horse, which needs the shoulder for pushing the carriage.

Another fault is when the horse comes with his nose behind the vertical,



either by being pulled there by too strong a hand of the driver or by avoiding the contact and going behind the bit. Both cases need re-schooling, too, by giving with the hand and encouraging the horse to stretch out while going forward and then very carefully taking up the contact again to establish a soft give-and-take balance between driver and horse. The proper education of the horse, thus, can only be achieved by following the logical steps of the Training Scale with great patience through the training process.

We have worked in our previous lessons already on stretching and bending the horse. With collection, we are now working on bringing him more together. In the collection, our horse looks like he is becoming shorter. Working on impulsion through up-and-down transitions and alternating straight lines with bends to both sides will increase the amount of collection that the horse is able to develop. The driver needs to use his forward driving aids with voice and whip to actively send the horse forward while using his hand on the reins with very careful restraining aids and with proper half halts to keep him together so that he doesn't just run faster in response to the forward-driving aids, but instead is developing the impulsion and push from behind in response to the half halts.

Again, we see why this is so much harder to accomplish with a driven horse than with a ridden one, as the rider has his seat and legs on the horse as his forward-driving aids with which he can help the horse at every step and especially push him forward, as necessary. We cannot achieve that amount of constant helping forward aid with voice and whip, which is especially necessary when asking the horse for any collection. Collection is not a goal that any horse has himself. Going forward, yes, many horses have that desire, but going collected, definitely not, because that is very hard for them to do. For that reason, we also should not ask for any long periods of collection, especially not at the beginning of our training. A few strides are all at first, very moderately, and then we can very slowly try to build that up to the requirements of the dressage tests. Ask little in the beginning; it takes time to build up the muscles and understanding for it. Don't overdo it. It is hard on the muscles and joints of the horse as well as on his mind. Quite often, asking for a little less will give you actually more. If the horse gets nervous or frustrated, go back a step to the previous level and only start very carefully again at a later lesson. During these exercises, the driver should alternate between lengthening the horse and stride by giving with his hand and taking up a little more contact to collect the horse, but that part has to be done very carefully so as not to block the horse.

During all of this, the horse must keep his balance. Keeping that is so much harder for a driving horse than a horse under saddle because, for the driven horse, the amount of pull of the carriage changes a bit with every step (that's because the carriage, at times, rolls easily behind him and, a fraction of a second later, needs another pull to keep the forward momentum). This is not a constant force on the horse; this is a changing force all the time. Add to that the changes by rolling over different terrain, even up and down hoof prints in a dressage field, and you will notice that it must be very difficult for him to maintain his balance through these constantly changing forces on him, constantly changing his centre of gravity, through which we can help him only very little with the reins. In contrast to that, look at a rider whose weight and balance shifts very little during each step on the horse, and by a good rider, will even be there to help the horse keep his balance. The greater the amount of collection that we desire, the more difficult it is to keep this balance by the horse; and the heavier the carriage is, the more difficult we make it for him.

Let me note here that the extension, as in an extended trot, is only coming out of proper collection and is different than the lengthened trot. The extended trot, then, is only required in advanced-level dressage tests; whereas, up to and including the intermediate level, all that is required is the lengthened trot. It takes years of proper training to build up the horse's muscles, joints, and tendons enough for the necessary collection of the horse to come to a proper extension. We are literally 'collecting energy' during a short period of collected trot - even though working at the collected trot does cost the horse a great amount of energy as well, and he can't hold that very long - in the corner of the dressage ring or through small circles to then use that 'collected energy' to move forward into the extended trot across the diagonal.

In driven dressage at the FEI level, there are now canter movements

required in some tests; almost all our CDE drivers that move above the training level are using the canter in some of their marathon obstacles, and many do so especially at the upper levels and also in the cones. The careful working of canter transitions can also be very beneficial toward further collection of the horse, both in upward and downward transitions from and to the trot, as both require more action from the hindquarters, more push in the upward transition, and more getting underneath of the horse in the downward transition.

In the FEI Description of Gaits Working Canter is defined, but also now since 2016, both Extended and Collected Canter are included - for marathon obstacles as well as in the cones, advanced drivers certainly have been using collection as well as extension in the canter. The training of both in a safe environment, as well as many transitions between collected canter and extended canter, is very beneficial to help the horse move toward further collection. It is very important, though, to keep the horse in balance through the transitions and not be too harsh with the commands; keep a soft and giving hand, and keep the horse relaxed. Thus, canter and collecting exercises should alternate in short order time periods with relaxing and stretching exercises, during which, however, the horse can also still be driven actively forward to use and engage his hind legs.

In most of our dressage tests, collection is only required from the driving horse at the trot; nevertheless, for getting that collection at the trot, as outlined above, proper canter work and transitions are very beneficial because they encourage the hind legs to become more active while keeping the horse swinging through the back. When the horse gets rigid and tense, that is often a sign that he has not properly understood our requests or is lacking one of the previous steps in our training scale. We cannot force any collection; we can only encourage a gradual development of it. So we need to go back to the previous steps and build it up again from there to come to our goal. However, we must also realise that different horses also have different limits in their physical ability, not only due to their different amounts of training but certainly also due to their inherited conformation, which makes it easier for some horses to achieve some collection and much harder, if not at times physically impossible, for others to ever get there.

As we have seen above, it is very difficult for a driving horse to achieve true collection and, therefore, only a very moderate amount of it can be expected in driving. But on top of that, in all of our discussions above, we have only talked about a single horse.

As long as we would drive on a straight line, achieving collection should not be more difficult for a multiple, except, of course, that the driver has to compromise his aids between the different horses, which makes it much harder since he can't help each horse with the exact dosage of necessary aids to find and keep their balance. But, on the other hand, the horses in a multiple have it a bit easier, as they can share the pulling of the weight among each other; leaders in a tandem or four-in-hand can even be driven without having to pull any weight. So, they have an advantage there; however, all of that is only true on a straight line.

Unfortunately, all of our dressage tests that require collected trots also ask for them on curved lines, such as circles and half circles. That means that while the inside horse(s) can be asked to collect, the outside horse(s) having to travel a longer route can hardly stay much collected through the turn.

So, if all this shows how difficult it is to train for and achieve proper collection with the driving horse, which may never be reached by most driving horses, then why do we even have this requirement in our upper-level tests? Why even try to work for a goal that most can't ever reach? Well, isn't that the case with so many of our goals?

We are striving for perfection, knowing full well that we will never be able to reach that goal. But every step into that direction is of benefit, as it will enable our horses to become better driving horses - as long as we do our steps in the correct way.

Toward that goal, we move on to our next and last chapter in the Training Scale:

DURCHLAESSIGKEIT = SELF CARRIAGE including Confidence.

*Editor's note: Minor elements of article amended from original version to reflect current dressage test requirements.*

# Tjeerd Velstra has passed away



*Above: Tjeerd Velstra driving at Apple-dorn in 1982, where he won the first of his two World Four In Hand Championships. Photo: Findlay Davidson*

*Right: Tjeerd Velstra driving Rod Ryan's team of Andalusians during the clinic held at 'Ellmore', Young in 1989 – photo credit: unknown.*



ON 25th February 2019 the world lost a true horseman. Tjeerd Velstra has passed away. He was 79 years old.

After a successful show jumping career, Velstra made the transition to four-in-hand combined driving. Winning individual World Championships in 1982 and 1986 he, along with team mate IJsbrand Chardon played an important role in winning a number of team gold medals for the Netherlands. With these accomplishments Velstra paved the way for The Netherlands to emerge as a leader in the driving world.

Velstra was named Dutch Champion seven times, and won numerous national and international competitions, including CAIO Aachen in 1983 and 1984. From 1974 until 1995 Velstra was the director of the NHB in Deurne. After ending his active driving career in 1996, he remained engaged in the sport as a trainer, instructor, international judge and official. Velstra played an important role in a number of high-profile international competitions and World Championships where he held the position of head jury or official.

As the Dutch Team Coach from 2007 to 2010,

Velstra led his drivers to many team and individual World Championships medals.

Tjeerd Velstra was known as a true horseman. His professionalism, good hands, and enormous knowledge of horses began from a young age and resulted in a successful career. Velstra was not only a respected driver, trainer and official in his homeland but also across the globe. He was one of the first drivers to travel internationally to give clinics in places such as South Africa and the USA.

Despite being sick for a while, Tjeerd immensely enjoyed visits from his driving colleagues where stories of driving, both past and present were shared. We extend our deepest condolences to his wife Marianne, his children, and their families with this immense loss.

*Above reprinted with permission of Hoefnet.nl*

Tjeerd Velstra visited Australia in 1989 and conducted several driving clinics. It was an opportunity for drivers here to really get up to speed on where the driving sport was at in Europe at the time, and in some respects provided additional impetus for Australians to compete overseas, including our representatives at the first

World Equestrian Games in Stockholm in 1990, Rod Ryan and Mike Thill, and a young Boyd Exell, who attended the Ellmore clinic with a pony pair.

At a time of rapid change, and experimentation in the sport with respect to carriages, course design and training methods, Velstra's visit helped to put driving in this country on a sound path.

Velstra's book 'The Driving Horse and his Schooling' was published in 1988 by ISKA-Verlag (the publishers of Achenbach magazine). It was perhaps one of the earlier publications which moved away from only discussing 'classical training', and focussed specifically on training of the harness horse for three phase competition. Velstra drew on his vast experience training and competing, and outlined solutions to many of the problems experienced by drivers, particularly in respect of multiples. His chapter on Tandems is a particularly valuable reference for anyone wanting to try their hand at this challenge in competition.

Although now out of print, copies of 'The Driving Horse and his Schooling' may be available online.

*Brendan Dwyer*



# DRESSAGE

Cheryl Dowling

## Federal Driven Dressage Convenor

THE GRADED DRIVEN DRESSAGE Rule Book and Guidelines became a live document as at 1st May, 2019. A Standard Pro-Forma Schedule for use at all Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers (GDDQs) has also been implemented. This will ensure continuity at GDDQs whilst at the same time providing standard documents making it easier for Clubs running these Qualifiers. These documents are all available under Publications on the Federal Website. Also, a timely reminder that results from GDDQs must be sent to the Grading Officer, Margie Morgan within seven days of the event.

From a dressage driver's point of view the recent series in the ACDS Journals of The German Training Scale by Hardy Zantke contains a wealth of information and goals to strive for, ensuring there is plenty to get excited about regarding Dressage Training.

FIRST FOR TASMANIA – By the time this journal is in your hands Tasmania will have held their very 1st Official GDDQs – this is great news and consolidates Dressage Nationally, putting every state 'on the map'. Well done to Perina Kentish – Tasmania's Dressage Convenor for organising the Qualifiers and by all accounts it was a great success.

It is also very pleasing to welcome new dressage judges onto the ACDS Officials list along with current judges taking the step to 'upgrade' to the Advanced level, showing a further commitment to ACDS and the future of the Dressage discipline.

Looking forward to the annual conference at Beechworth on weekend of 13th & 14th July, 2019.

Cheryl Dowling NDCC



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# *Sydney Royal* **EASTER SHOW HARNESS CLASSES**

by Janet Muspratt Federal Show Driving Convenor



*The Shetland Multiples class at the Sydney Royal featured the Blakeley family's team, and a pair and a unicorn, both entered by Val Dewsbury. Photo: J Muspratt*

**T**HE SYDNEY ROYAL once again had all the harness classes in the first five days, except for the miniature pony classes which were held several days later. The show started on Friday April 12 and finished on Tuesday April 23 2019. 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.

For once, the show had fine weather for almost the whole show. This was something that the RAS really appreciated, after battling on through some very wet days from time to time over the last few years. Crowds were big, with 123,000 there on Good Friday, and most other days had close to the 100,000 mark each time. A highlight on the first Saturday was seeing Winx's last race on the big screen in the arena, with everyone cheering and clapping her on to her win!

The Light Harness classes and Business, Delivery and Turnout classes were generally quite well supported, although numbers in the Light Harness section were slightly down on last year's entries. Approximate counts from the catalogue entries were: Light Harness: Four Hackney horses, eight Hackney ponies, nine non Hackney horses, 29 non Hackney ponies, 28 Shetlands and 13 miniature ponies. Business/Delivery horses totalled about 53, a big increase on last year's entries. Approximately 20 ACDS members exhibited about 26 horses and ponies in harness.

It was good to see a number of beautifully presented sulkies, buggies and other traditional vehicles, as well as many quality viceroys, come into the ring over the course of the show. The vehicles included several Shetland sulkies and buggies, which are quite rare these days.

In the Light Harness ring, Mr Terry Cowan judged the Hackneys whilst Mr David Smith judged the Non Hackneys. They shared the judging in turnout classes. Ms Colleen Maloy (NSW) who belongs to the Hunter Harness Club, judged the costumes in the Authentic Period Turnout class. The Shetland judge was Ms Fiona Wilson whilst the Miniature Pony judge was Ms Sue 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: Crosswynds Our Brenin E Avery (Vic). Supreme Champion Turnout: Crosswynds Our Brenin E Avery (Vic). Champion Shetland in Harness: Green Valley Krypton M Pengelly and K Buckleigh (NSW). Best Miniature Pony in Harness: Tianjarra the Magician E Molenaar (NSW). Light Harness Turnout on Parade: 1st Val Dewsbury with Carreg Wen Bailly, Redacres Sammy and Clanline Shadow

The Business, Delivery and Turnout ring was very well supported with some big classes, particularly of heavy horses. It 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, lorries and wagons were all paraded proudly. The non traditional vehicles, mainly two wheeled show carts, also made attractive viewing. Mr Shane Patterson judged the Traditional vehicle classes and Mr Ross Honsberger judged the Non Traditional vehicle classes.

The major awards included:

Champion Single Horse Business Turnout: Dash P & D Ward & Sons (NSW). Champion Multiple

Horse Business Turnout: Jeanal Summer Solstice/Deep Creek Rhuben Elermer Clydesdales & Vaughan's Hay Supplies(NSW). Champion Delivery Horse – Traditional Australian Vehicle: Dancer P & D Ward & Sons & Perfection Holdings (NSW). Champion Show Driving Horse – Non Traditional Vehicle: McMurchie Ingram D & E Rheinberger (NSW). Business/Delivery Vehicle on Parade: Jasper Wares Livery Stables (NSW).

ACDS members with horses and ponies in the Light Harness events included the Barlow Family (Southern Highlands Club), Max Pearce & Leah Montefiore (Bungendore), Karl Olssen (Tamworth), Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley (Reedy Creek), Karen Pryor (Central Coast), and Kathy and Steve Brammall, Lulu Molenaar, Christine Dunn and Nigel Burton, Kirstin Feddersen, and Peter O'Regan all from the Hills Club. In the Business/Delivery ring were David and Julia Cranwell (Hills), Jan Pierce (Reedy Creek) and Ross & Miriam Carbery (Border).

Some of the spectators I met up with watching the harness classes were Ken and Helen Taylor, Paul and Marilyn Austin, Barbara Smith, Karen Silvester, Tony James (who was taking photos for the British Carriage Driving Magazine) Rodney Lane, Laurie Grima, Karen and Emily Thompson, and Sandy and John Hunter.

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.

Postscript: The ACDS is now a recognised horse register for the Sydney Royal, meaning that ACDS members may use their ACDS horse registration as identification for their horses. Application to become a recognised register was a lengthy process, but it finally led to approval by the RAS Horse Committee early this year.





*Above left: Julia Cranwell and Sharon Clarke in the Pair or Tandem class for Delivery Horses. Above right: Amanda Proctor with Glenwood Look at Me in the Authentic Period Turnout class. Photos: J Muspratt*



*Above left: The Supreme Champion Hackney at Sydney Royal was Cherry Farm Alaric driven by Melissa Bensley. Above right: Kirstin Feddersen driving Shepherds Hill Yowie in the Non Hackney Horse class. Photos: J Muspratt*



*Above left: Kathy Brammall driving Mirabella Lady Lass, Reserve Champion Shetland in Harness. Above right: Waiting to be judged in the Non Hackney Pony Viceroy Turnout. Photos: J Muspratt. Below left: The Milkmen's Turnouts at the Sydney Royal. Photo: H Copeland. Below right: Maureen Pengelly's and Kerry Buckleigh's Golden Park Lollipop in the Authentic Period Turnout. Photo: J Muspratt.*





# CLUB NEWS from QUEENSLAND



Left: All Welsh Show champions, Jan Young and Cwmkaren Welsh Rhapsody. Photo: Paul Rossi. Centre: Heavy horse driver Clare Gorwyn at Warwick Show. Photo: Clint Kenny. Right: Caboolture Carriage Club's postponed Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers proceeded on 30 March. Pictured is Sue O'Brien driving O'Bees Warlord's Wish Photo: Loretta Seary.

**C**ONGRATULATIONS to Townsville member, Rhonda Pedracini, on qualifying as a TPR Steward.

## Driven Dressage

**C**ABOOLTURE Carriage Club hosted the first Graded Driven Dressage Qualifiers (GDDQ) for the year in March which will be followed (in May) by another two-event weekend. These events were conducted under the new ACDS Driven Dressage Rulebook. The March GDDQs were initially set for 16-17 March, however, heavy rainfall meant the weekend was postponed to 30 March. Ungraded classes were also held for the annual ACDSQB Ross Siemon Memorial Dressage cup.

Results (30 March – GDDQs): Event 1 – Preliminary 1st & 2nd - O'Bees Warlord's Wish (Sue O'Brien); Elementary 1st & 2nd - De Ben (Deanna Hibberd). Event 2 - Preliminary 1st & 2nd - O'Bees Warlord's Wish (Sue O'Brien); Elementary 1st - De Ben (Deanna Hibberd); Intermediate 1st - De Ben (Deanna Hibberd).

Range Club will host another GDDQ before the State Driven Dressage Champions on 18th August at Caboolture. Refresher and candidate accreditation clinics are also in the pipeline for later this year. Accreditation for Ground Jury qualification will be held at the dressage clinic.

## SHOW DRIVING ROUNDUP

**T**HE SHOW DRIVING CLINIC with Graham Wass and Jan Young was held at Goombung Showgrounds on 24 February. Hosted by the Range Carriage Club, the day proved very successful for the 10 participants, some experienced, but mostly learners especially with green horses. Graham showed how to harness up his

mare Kartrice Tamara and put her to his viceroy. She was immaculately presented. Jan had a variety of laminated workouts and put each driver through their paces. Harness was checked with adjustments made and a talk was given about what was correct for the different turnout classes and what was expected conduct for competitors in the ring. The afternoon was a small show with some different classes, eg - Novice - Open Pony/ Horse and a whip class etc. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

**AROUND THE SHOWS:** The Gilroys have revived the harness classes at Clifton Show. Nine competitors all looking their best presented to Judge Clint Kenny - Champion Horse / Pony / Multiples was Jan Lex Young with Cwmkaren Welsh Rhapsody - Reserve the pair Les Gilroy Frodo/Monty. Champion Turnout Cwmkaren Rhapsody. Reserve Wilma Burke and Limmerick. Champion Whip was awarded to Jan Young and Reserve to Les Gilroy. J and W Burke generously donated a sash to every competitor for their participation in the harness classes. Thank-you.

At Pittworth Show numbers were down. Ian Stewart Koster was the judge who gave some interesting workouts. Champion Equine and Champion Turnout went to Young's Cwmkaren Rhapsody - Reserve Equine and Turnout was awarded to Trevor Kohler and Carberry Estate Nikita, a beautiful Belgian mare making her debut.

Warwick Show over two days in late March attracted a huge roll up. Our Judge David Rozynski had his work cut out. He gave us a good test in the Lady Whip with directional hand signals. Not many of us got the workout right and I was one. However, first was Kylie Doneathy, 2nd Tracy Bavington with her first time young pony and 3rd

Wilma Burke. Well done! Champion Equine went to Young's Cwmkaren Rhapsody with Reserve to G Wass Kartrice Tamara. The same result happened in the Turnout Championship against heavy horses. Congratulations to organisers volunteers and helpers on an excellent show.

Toowoomba Show being on a Tuesday was once again down in numbers. Champion in all classes was the Wass Family Kartrice Tamara who also won the Concourse - Reserve Champion awards went to a new member/driver Kathleen Godley and Chappell Park Athens. Champion Whip was awarded to junior driver Lucy Doneathy who also drove Tamara with Reserve to mum Kylie - Congratulations, everyone!

Queensland All Welsh 2019 Show, Toowoomba – Lex and I made it for the harness classes today thanks to Sandra for the loan of her BT50 and Paul who kindly drove us and was a great help all day. We would like to thank the sponsors Champion in Harness donated by Stephen and Kathy Pile, Driven Turnout Bunnings Voucher, Lady Driver Wholesale Horse Warehouse voucher, Bronze Medal donated by Sunshine & Frazer Coast RPG, High Point Harness exhibit - Llagregub Stud - Accolades to our pony Cwmkaren Welsh Rhapsody and breeder John Riley.

Planning for the Queensland Show Driving Championships on 23 June is well underway with the programme finalised and available in the Whip & Wheel and on our ACDSQB website. Sponsorship is being sourced. Judges Wendy Look and Nicki Erich have accepted the positions.

By Jan Young

Qld Show Driving Convenor

Left: The keen drivers learning heaps at the Range club's Show Driving clinic in February. Right: Rachael Cooper and her pony pair (with Nicole Kimlin as groom) participating in the Range club's Show Driving clinic in February. Photos: Jan Young.





# CLUB NEWS from TASMANIA

*Rachael with Maryl Cropper.*

*Photo: Perina Kentish.*



**R**ACHEL HASLAU was back for a fleeting visit 3 April for a day of lessons at Wynyard. The weather wasn't particularly nice early in the morning but stayed dry allowing everyone to have lessons in the dry. A well-attended day that all enjoyed, especially Easter Bunny Peri with her big basket of eggs.

Accompanying photos by Perina Kentish

## ULVERSTONE DRIVE:

A writeup of the drive from Paul Brown, aged 10.

**M**Y FIRST JOB was to see to Dolly's water that we brought. I think this is a good idea to have the same water as we have at home. Mum got Dolly out and I got her hay bag. We unloaded the float and I went round to say "Hello" to everyone while Mum got Dolly harnessed and then put to. Helmets on and then off we went: Jill then Maryl, then Ruth and Graham, Chrissy (mum) and me, and Gwenda with Michael MacDonald and his grand-daughter Phoebe.

We went through some bollards and along a bike and walking track. Jill was a fair way in front and then she waited for us. When we trotted Mum tried to slow Dolly down and she got crabby and did her kicking. We walked into Turners Beach and Mum phoned Dad. She was parked with the hand brake on (not using her phone while driving). We ended up by the river and turned round to go back. Now I rode with Jill and I had to hang out the side. (= Willow was cantering) We lost the others who were doing a turn around a block.

Back on the cycling track, passed Camp Clayton, some people we met cycling were pulling a little trailer. Willow didn't like it and I felt a bit scared. A second one came along, Willow didn't seem to mind this one at all. He was going slower than the first one and pulled over towards the grass. Nearly at the bollards we met a man in a wheel chair. I asked him to stop and he did. Willow went between the bollards and I went to tell the wheel chair man more horses were coming. I don't think he heard me as kept going. On the road past the caravan park a car was coming and waited for us to cross the bridge. Jill asked two cyclist to ring their bell so Willow would know they were coming behind. We waited again for the others to catch up. Some children at the Skate Park wanted to pat Willow. One of the children ran and Willow was nervous. Past the Surf Club and we were nearly back to the floats where we took photos.

After we unharnessed the ponies we sat around together and shared a picnic that Mum and Nan had made.

Well done Paul.

## NTDS Driven Dressage Day.

**N**ORTHERN TASMANIAN Driving Society held Tasmania's first Official Graded Driven Dressage day on the 18th May 2019.

Three of the states Novice Dressage judges came to the Wynyard grounds to judge at the event, Suzanne Betts, Perina Kentish and newly appointed Suzanne McDermott.

Perfect weather saw the arena set up and the competitor briefing start at 9.45am. Two events

were held on the day; one in the morning and the second in the afternoon. Each competitor drove their selected test twice in each event. Tests driven were the Preliminary 1, Novice 1, and Novice 2, and the Elementary 1.

Having the two competitions gave the four competitors the opportunity to read their remarks from the morning event and then repeat their tests in the afternoon, with the scores reflecting the constructive comments of the morning, in improved marks for the afternoon event.

Placings for the Morning Event were 1st- Gwenda Holland and Minty with 76.17%, 2nd- Maryl Cropper and Sophie with 60.68%. 3rd - Jill Cawsey and Willow with 58.58% and 4th - Chrissy Brown and Dolly with 58.44%.

Placings for the Afternoon Event were 1st. - Gwenda Holland and Minty with 74.63%. 2nd. - Chrissy Brown and Dolly with 68.32%. 3rd. - Maryl Cropper with Sophie with 65.55% and 4th - Jill Cawsey and Willow with 62.51%.

A big thank you goes to our two judges from south of Hobart, our scorer David Kentish, the three pencilers that were all first time dressage pencilers and did a great job, and all the others that helped make the event the success it was.

*Peri Kentish*

**P**HIL MARSHALL is due down shortly for some more training lessons and a few drives are being planned so all is travelling along nicely.

Hope to see you on a track

*David*

*Left: Rachael with David Potter. Right: Rachael with Ruth and Graham Butler. Photos: Perina Kentish.*



# CLUB NEWS from SOUTH AUSTRALIA

## 2019 Peterborough Classic!

THANKS TO EVERYONE who came to the Peterborough Classic, there was a great turnout with 15 entries in all. It was lovely to have members from Southern come and compete and also assist with stewarding. We had a terrific number of stewards; not only the Peterborough community stewards but also families and drivers who were unable to drive on the day.

Saturday we had a pre-event dinner at Badger Hall. It was a great evening with much laughter and fun to be had by all. As always it was a great way to start the weekend, with the majority of competitors and family joining in the frivolities. The event dinner was well supported by competitors attending along with family and friends who enjoyed a wonderful dinner thanks to St Joseph's Parents and Friends group.

Unfortunately there were a couple of scratchings; with Liz Trigg being a non-starter and Graham Mercer, who had a very successful day one, sadly had to pull out of the marathon phase. Team Vaudin were out in force with a total of four entries making for very busy days, although they still had time to 'bike' up on their scooters to get around. Belinda Mattner drove two ponies in the event and needless to say... she had a smashing time! Anna-Marie Vaudin drove her new horse successfully over the weekend. Rhys Vaudin was very competitive in all phases of the competition with his horse Kittle Composer.

Judi Carr and Tom were pretty in green with Jill Billett standing in as groom; she promises she will make it next year! Megan Webb and her little pony kept up the pace and competed very well in all sections. It was a successful weekend also for Carol Mercer with her new pony Cracker; an appropriate name for a cracker of a pony. Newby Charlotte Farrell (junior) successfully competed in her first CDE with her new

pony Huey (thanks to Graham). Lawrie Tyas also drove a new pony 'Harvey' in his first CDE; didn't take Harvey long to find out the obstacles are fun! 'Pearl' and driver Deb O'Dowd were a great combination on the weekend, Pearl is also new to the scene but worked like a pro! Shirley Crossley drove faithful Dennis in the CDE with a wonderful dressage; unfortunately he was going just a little too fast in the obstacles ... where is A? Dex and Ree Tyas had a successful weekend with in all phases of the competition even though it took Dex two minutes to leave the grounds... floats can be very scary you know!

Once again GPCDA would like to thank stewards, judges, officials, scorers. We truly appreciate you all volunteering your time so we can compete. Such competitions could not happen without you.

Special thanks also to those who supported the event with additional trophies and prizes; Team Perry, Kangra Photography, Len and Anne Comfort and the Trigg family for securing our major sponsor.

To our amazing major sponsors Champion Tails; Kangra Photography; Perry Family—thank you!

### Peterborough Classic Class Winners:

Novice Small Pony: Megan Webb.

Novice Big Pony: Judi Carr.

Novice Horse: Deb O'Dowd.

Intermediate Small Pony: Ree Tyas.

Intermediate Horse: Rhys Vaudin.

Level 4: Novice Small Pony: Carol Mercer.

### GPCDA TPR School

EARLIER THIS YEAR A TPR school was offered in South Australia at Peterborough. Liz Trigg played an integral part in securing a vet, Annie Forrest from Port Lincoln, who was happy to take on the trek to Peterborough and held two schools over the weekend ensuring all



Above: Left: Dennis taking the TPR school in his stride. Right: For a newbie Pearl was very relaxed about the whole TPR thing. Below: Left: The vet giving last minute instructions to a group of Keen students. Right: Very cooperative ponies indeed at the TRP school. TPR Clinic photos by GPCDA Members.



people wanting be accredited had the opportunity to do so. Of course we couldn't do it without those good sports, Dennis, Jenny and Pearl who put up with heart rate, temperature and respiration checks throughout the morning. All those qualifying in the practical side of the accreditation also completed the theory section earlier in the day.

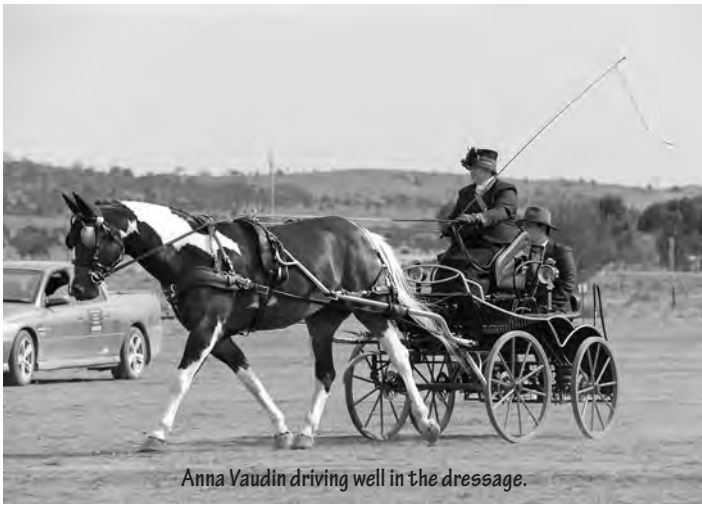
It was a great weekend with some of our newly accredited TRP stewards using their new skills in the Peterborough Classic recently.

## 2019 Peterborough Classic. Photos: Thanks to Andew Graham, Kangra.

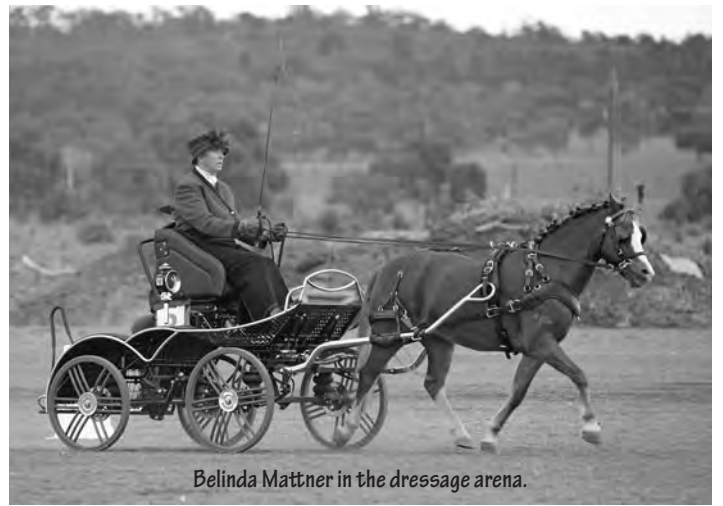
Left: Rhys Vaudin driving the Tyre obstacle with ease. Right: Ree Tyas navigating the cones.







Anna Vaudin driving well in the dressage.



Belinda Mattner in the dressage arena.



Deb O'Dowd and Chris having way too much fun with Pearl.



Graham Mercer driving a successful cones course



Harvey's first CDE with driver Lawrie Tyas.



Judi Carr with Tom in the Dressage.



Megan Webb driving in the level 4.



Shirley Crossley driving dressage with Dennis.



# Joe Hawkins Cup Level 3 CDE at Marrar

by Tracey Ellis

ORGANISATION for the Riverina Carriage Driving Society's Joe Hawkins Cup CDE on March 16/17 2019 came together well after a change of date to work in with the Victorian CDE Championships. Many thanks should go to the Ellmore Club for accommodating a date change to fit in with this event, and many thanks also to Scribblegum Design and Print for its generous sponsorship.

A record number of 37 entries made it a great weekend. Thanks to all those drivers from near and far who came to support us. It certainly makes all the hard work worthwhile. The quality of the judges and scoring officials also contributed greatly to the success of the event. A late change of course to Section A just prior to the weekend kept us on our toes, but it all worked out well.

This year's Joe Hawkins Cup was won by Glenda Marshall driving Pepper. The fittest pony was won by Merryn Byers and Peppertree Hill Ark Royal, whilst the fittest horse went to Lyn Callaghan and Shepherds Hill Dennis. The Best Groom award was won by Jeanette Cawley, who was Yvonne Brown's wonderful groom.

The Battle of the States between NSW and Victoria was hotly contested. To choose the representatives, six members' names from each state were drawn out a hat at the welcome BBQ on the Friday night. The Victorian team was Jenny Begg, Jodie McKeone, David Cockcroft, Mandy Lawrence and Margaret Sperrin, whilst the NSW team was Lisa Harrington, Phil Rosetta, Brendan Dwyer, Bruce Hammond, Pam Salter and Lynne Dominish. Victoria pipped NSW at the post to take out the win with 181.26 points beating NSW on 183.71 points. NSW members - a few too many awards crossed the border this year! We'll have to pick up our game next year.

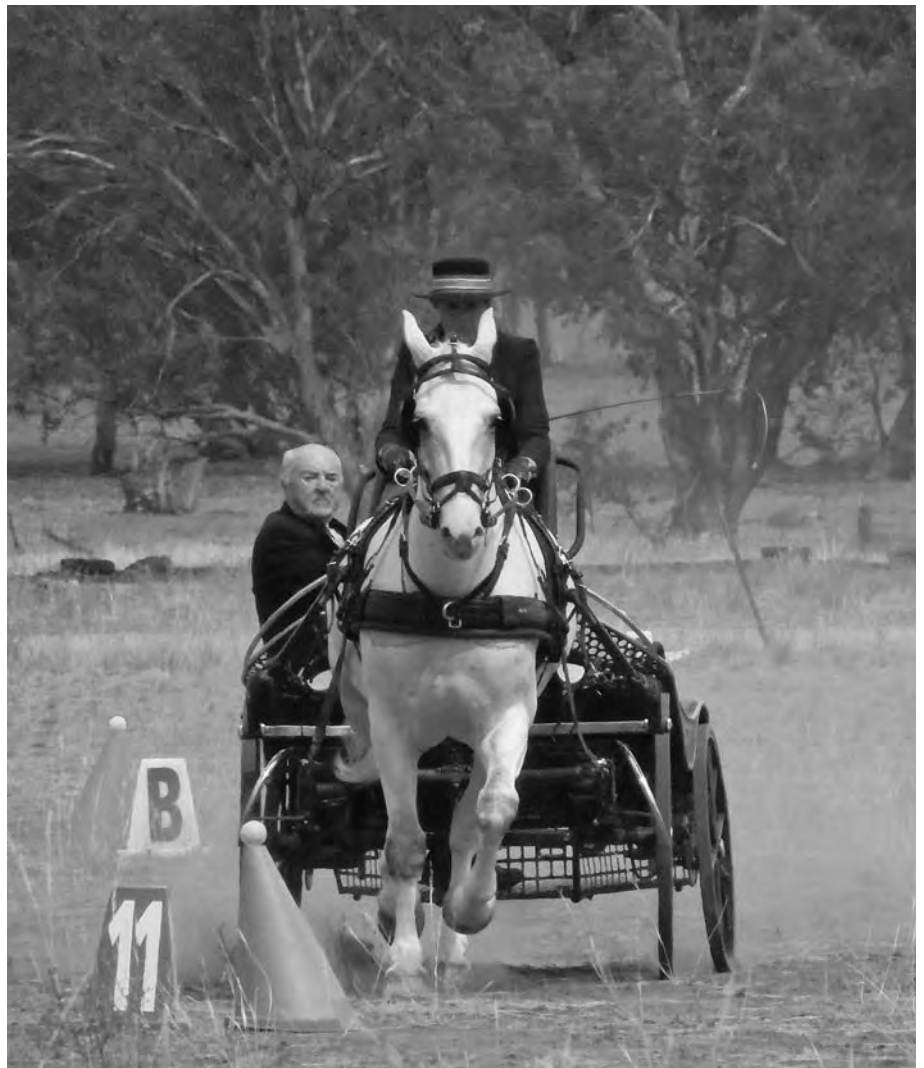
*At the Joe Hawkins Cup CDE:*

*Above: Pam Salter with her pair of ponies.*

*Right: Gail Bain with Galty Mountain Boy, winner of the Novice Horse class.*

*Below: Brendan Dwyer driving Tracey Ellis' pony Louie, winner of the Intermediate Large Pony class*

*Photos: W Harris.*







*At the Joe Hawkins Cup CDE:*

*Above: Lyn Callaghan driving Shepherds Hill Dennis winner of the Open Horse class.*

*Right: Debbie Dunn with Ranni Park Heart's Ablaze.*

*Below left: Margaret Sperrin driving her pair.*

*Below right: Tess Smith and Koriana Absolute Star.*

*Photos: W Harris.*



**WOW**, what a great effort the West Australians made to ensure that the recent CDE National Championships was a memorable and well run event. Congratulations to all those involved, be it as organiser, volunteer, official or competitor.

It was heartening to see so many helpers come from the eastern states – not only experienced judges and officials but plenty of other members, keen to assist in any way they could to facilitate the competition.

The dressage arena was a treat, with judges' boxes impressively made by Paul Tester (although some horses did not agree – note to self: must train near a small shed). Care packs for the judges and their pencilers assisted their comfort, and the catering was a pretty picture. The best tests for the day were Cheryl McCall (novice), Lorraine Cairns (intermediate) and Doddy Goile (multiples).

Marathon day dawned bright and cool, and Murray Club had organised four stewards for each MO. Yes, read that again, four stewards! This reflects the high esteem of the club, and their ability to work with their local and extended communities.

The forest drive was glorious, clearly marked and through amazing vegetation. When it came to the MOs they were challenging with many route decisions to make. Each had a different theme, making it easier for competitors to remember them. Congratulations to course designer Athol Purchas and TD Peter Harkness, along with their team of willing workers. The best marathon score of the day was achieved by Sarah Suvaljko in the novice small pony class.

Competition C, the cones, was designed to be over two fairways of this ex-golf course. It proved to be appropriately challenging as well as a great show, with the balance of speed and accuracy a difficult target. Double clears were achieved by Phil Marshall, Amanda Igoe, Brendan Dwyer, Ben Neilson and Niamh Tester.

Now it is time to look forward to the 2020 National CDE Championships at Greenvale in Victoria.

Remember, the current CDE rule book has some changes from previous editions, and it is in your best interests to read it before competing. An easy way to use this publication is to save a copy on your tablet or PC then use the search function to find what you want. Much

faster than trawling through the printed pages trying to find what you know is there but may easily miss.

Feedback from members informed our CDE rule book, and it has been great to get feedback on our current rules at the events I have recently attended. I have had many people tell me how wonderful it is to be able to drive only gates A-D in MOs as a novice, and nearly as many who have told me they want to drive all gates in MOs!

Our levels of novice, intermediate and open are there to provide a pathway as confidence, skill and experience improve. They also allow for a wider range of competitors, welcoming all no matter what age or ability. Use this pathway to your benefit so you and your horse can continue enjoying your driving. Remember, your horse's grading points arise from completing your dressage score when you compete without elimination and you can voluntarily upgrade at any time by entering in a higher level class.

Happy driving.

Karen Rogers  
Federal CDE Convenor  
fedcdeconvenor@gmail.com

## 2019 ALCOA AUSTRALIAN CDE CHAMPIONSHIPS

### ACDS Perpetual Trophy recipients

**Roblea McEnroe Memorial** – Aust. Champion Novice Pony 91cms & ne121cms: Sarah Suvaljko & Glen Avon Jackman

**Richard Muspratt Memorial** – Aust. Champion Novice Pony 121cms & ne 149cms: Brendan Dwyer & Ridgway

**Zilco Equestrian Sales** – Aust. Champion Novice Horse over 149cms: Niamh Tester & Trapalanda Downs Quo Vardis

**Aust. Carriage Driving Society** – Aust. Champion Intermediate Pony 121cms & ne 149cms: Lorraine Cairns & Narcoola Parc Dylan.

**Canberra Times** – Aust. Champion Pony Pair: Vera Sulc & Hawkwood Rosita Rose Petal, Ashcroft Gloss.

**TNT Trophy** – Aust. Champion Horse Pair: Carol Hammond & Tatiara Ruby, The Chancer.

**Anne & Rob Robertson Trophy** – Best Performance by a Horse or Pony Tandem: Edward Grivell & Sugar, Spice Girl.

**El Senorita Cheeky Trophy** – Best Overall Multiples Score (Pair/Tandem/Team): Vera Sulc & Hawkwood Rosita Rose Petal, Ashcroft Gloss.

**VIC State Branch Trophy** – Best Performance by a Novice State Team (3 Drivers): WA - Vera Sulc, Virginia James, Sophie Pope.

**Dice-a-Bed Trophy** – Best Team Performance from same Club (3 Drivers): Oaklands (Vic) - Lorraine Cairns, David Cockcroft, Phil Marshall

**Bungendore & District Horse Drawn Vehicle Club** – Best Junior Driver: Niamh Tester

**Tasman Industries Trophy** – Concours d'Elegance – Singles: Cheryl McCall

**Tasman Industries Trophy** – Concours d'Elegance – Multiples: Doddy Goile

**Carlyle Stud Shield** – Best Dressage Score – Novice: Cheryl McCall & London Park Welsh Dragon

**Murray Districts CDC** - Best Dressage Score - Intermediate: Lorraine Cairns & Narcoola Parc Dylan.

**Carlyle Stud Shield** – Best Dressage Score – Multiples: Doddy Goile & Minstrals Moonglow, Minstrals Bagatelle

**Bellarine Club Trophy** – Best Overall Score for a Driver 60 years & Over: Lorraine Cairns

## What's The Penalty?

**1. What's the penalty if the competitor's carriage wheel width doesn't meet the required minimum wheel width in the dressage phase?**

- a) 10 penalties
- b) Elimination
- c) No penalty

**2. What's the penalty for a competitor in Section E of the marathon who stops for 30 seconds to avoid time penalties when approaching the finish of the Section ( in the last 300m)?**

- a) No penalty
- b) 10 penalties
- c) Elimination

**3. What's the penalty for a competitor entering a marathon obstacle without a whip in hand?**

- a) No penalty as long as whip is on the carriage.
- b) 10 penalties
- c) 5 penalties

**4. What's the penalty for a competitor dropping their whip during the cones course?**

- a) 5 penalties for groom dismounting
- b) 10 penalties
- c) Elimination

WHAT'S THE PENALTY? ANSWERS:  
1. b) Art 937.1 & 937.3 2. b) Art 964.3 & 964.6.3  
3. c) 928.5.2 4. b) Art 928.4.



# 2019 ALCOA AUSTRALIAN COMBINED DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Dennis Wise Photos: Eddie Srblin



Left: Top three placegetters from a large field of 10 in the Novice Horse Class (L to R) Amanda Colli (3rd), Niamh Tester (1st), David Cockcroft (2nd) Right: Doddy Goile driving Minstrals Bagatelle (Fish) Minstrals Moon Glow (Mac).

**T**HE TYRANNY OF DISTANCE limits carriage driving sports in Australia, especially multiples. It is tough and expensive to transport ponies or horses, harness, vehicle/s and all the camping gear to compete in Australia where distances are so huge and fuel so expensive. But to hit the road to compete in Western Australia from one of the Eastern States is a serious commitment for Combined Driving Event (CDE) enthusiasts. Over the past few years there has been quite a steady flow of WA competitors brave enough to tackle the Nullarbor to compete at Eastern States championships but the flow in reverse has been non-existent. You cannot blame Eastern States competitors – five or six days over and back plus the extra quarantine and vet costs. You would have to be nuts (or very enthusiastic) to cart horses, harness, carriages and camp almost 4,000 kms across the continent and back for a couple of hours CDE competition.

## Bigger than US or Europe

LET'S PUT THAT DISTANCE into context for a moment – the distance between Sydney in New South Wales to Perth in Western Australia is further than a road trip from London to Moscow or from New York to Los Angeles. There is another huge difference. For two or three days of the five or six-day trip there is no habitation at all apart from filling stations every couple of hundred kilometres. One straight stretch of road is well over 300 kms. This trip is not for sissies, especially with horses. It is a long way home if you do not win a thing.

This year the 2019 Alcoa Australian CDE Championships at Dwellingup in WA broke the drought of Eastern States competitors brave enough to tackle the Nullarbor. Seven Eastern States competitors arrived in the West to try their hand against the locals. Four with their own horses and three to drive WA prepared horses or ponies.

## Truly National

WHEN THE National Championships were last held in WA, back in 2014, three Eastern States competitors drove WA prepared horses or ponies and between them took home much of the silverware. This year however NSW, Victorian and SA competitors did not find such easy pickings. Representation from four different States meant that the National Championships staged in WA were a truly National competition at last.

## Record Entries

NOT ONLY were there record interstate competitors, local WA drivers embraced the Championships enthusiastically too. Record 34 entries in the Level One competition and an additional three entries in the lower Level Four competition. Entries actually exceeded organisers rather ambitious budget which was very pleasing.



## Fantastic CDE Course

THE MURRAY DISTRICTS Carriage Driving Club which hosted the 2019 Alcoa Championships at Dwellingup really threw themselves into the organisation of the Championships. A few years ago the Club took over a defunct Golf Course which had been carved out of the picturesque Jarrah forest back in the nineteen-fifties. It is almost ideal. Former fairways have been remodelled to become a permanent Dressage arena, a Cones course including a 'bridge' and 'water hazard' and almost all the other former fairways now feature extraordinary obstacles built by local Course Designers (for this event Athol Purchas did a sterling job as Course Designer). It was very pleasing to hear internationally experienced officials and competitors remark that the course was as good as any course in Australia.

## Grim weather then perfect conditions

THE WEATHER was not promising. After a four or five-month dry, hot spell the heavens opened two days before the event. No rain for five months then rain bucketed down for two days at Dwellingup. Soggy campers lost their sense of humour. Horses and ponies pugged about miserably in mud. Organisers enthusiasm sagged. Event excitement headed south – big time. Organisers' plans for al fresco dining looked silly as competitors huddled around campfires in raincoats and cursed the blessed rain. But then a miracle! (Miracles often happen at Easter). Good Friday dawned cool and cloudless. By lunch time only traces of rain remained. No dust and softer going underfoot for horses – almost perfect. Relief and good cheer was abundant when the trot up began at 2.00 pm. There were unexpected bonuses – the water obstacle, which had been cautiously named 'The Dry Dock' now contained serious water, even the splash on the cones course was awash and the new Dressage Arena, which only days before was a dust bowl, rolled out in perfect condition.

## Picture perfect dressage

THE DRESSAGE ARENA was a picture. Two hundred boxes of flowers, grown by Murray District Carriage Driving Club ladies, and the three new purpose-built Judges boxes set a standard not seen before in WA.

Dressage performances, under the critical eyes of internationally acclaimed Judges, matched the standard of the arena – it was fantastic. The outstanding performance of the day was local Cheryl McCall with her lovely Novice Large Pony London Park Welsh Dragon, (aka Thomas), with a stunning score of 37.5 in a very competitive field.

## Marathon adrenalin rush

ANOTHER cloudless perfect Dwellingup day dawned on Easter Sunday.



Marathons are why people drive across Australia to compete in CDEs. Nothing matches the adrenalin rush and excitement of CDE Marathons - nothing. Marathons turn easy going blokes into ruthless do or die competitors, gentle maidens into screaming banshees – everything is at stake.

Section A was steady going though sun dappled Jarrah forest tracks adjacent to the MDCDC grounds. The Walk was a casual stroll along a well-made gravel road back towards the clubhouse and vet check and the last Section was all on the MDCDC grounds on the former golf course.

The weather held up for the precision driving cones on Monday. The course was a beauty – open and fast – it generated great exhibitions of precision driving.

And at the end of the day the results. Eastern state's drivers were right in the money but this time WA competitors held their own amid some pretty stiff competition.

**2019 Alcoa ACDS Australian Combined Driving Championships.**  
**Hosted by Murray Districts Carriage Driving Club, Dwellingup, WA**  
**- 19-22 April 2019**

#### OVERALL RESULTS:

##### **Class 1 Novice Pony 91 u 121cm - Sponsored by 888 Crushing.**

- 1st Surah Suvaljko – Glen Avon Jackman
- 2nd Phil Marshall – Silverbook Morgwyn
- 3rd Alison Phillips – Minstrels Petite Fleur
- 4th Amanda Igoe – Kimset Park Buon Natale
- 5th Virginia James – Toby Le'Rone
- 6th Jenny Smith – Marbelyn Park Classie Edition

##### **Class 2 Novice Pony 121 ne 149cm – Sponsored by Surf Meal Co**

- 1st Brendan Dwyer – Ridgway
- 2nd Ben Neilson – Lewis Park Luca
- 3rd Judy Pope – Narcoola Parc Roweena
- 4th Cherryl McCall – London Park Welsh Dragon
- 5th Sophie Pope – Wendamar Nixon
- 6th Daniel Suvaljko – Hillswood Ffansi Monarch

##### **Class 3 Novice Horse o 149cm – Sponsored by McKenzie Transport**

- 1st Niamh Tester – Trapalanda Downs Quo Vardis
- 2nd David Cockcroft – Eddie
- 3rd Amanda Colli – Equus Lodge Stella
- 4th Merryn Bojcun – Shepherds Hill Zali
- 5th Sally Allington – Licorice Twist
- 6th Joan Cureton – Admiral Rama

##### **Class 5 Intermediate Pony 121 ne 149 - Sponsored by Carberry Estate**

- 1st Lorraine Cairns – Narcoola Parc Dylan
- 2nd Linden Barry – Catarauqui Magical Amulet

##### **Class 10 Pony Pair 91 ne 149cm - Sponsored by Moore Contracting**

- 1st Vera Sule – Hawkwood Rosita Rose Petal, Ashcroft Gloss.

##### **Class 11 Horse Pair o 149cm - Sponsored by Scribblegum Printing**

- 1st Carol Hammond – Tatiara Ruby, The Chancer

##### **Class 12 Pony Tandem 91 ne 149cm - Sponsored by Iseppi Contracting**

- 1st Edward Grivell – Sugar, Spice Girl.

*More great photos by Eddie Srblin starting on page 20.*



Merryn Bojcun – Shepherds Hill Zali.



Amanda Colli - Equus Lodge Stella.



Deb Madsen - Minstrell Sweet William



Amanda Igoe - Kismet Park Buon Natale.



Jenny Smith - Marbelyn Park Classie Edition



# Join us at BEECHWORTH Victoria



Beechworth  
*Conserve the Past*



This year the ACDS is hosting our annual conference in the beautiful, historic township of Beechworth, Victoria over 13-14 July 2019.

Beechworth is a living museum of the gold rush and has the Ned Kelly connection. It is a wonderful town to explore on foot with walking tours available. High country wines and fantastic food is also a mark of this area.

Our conference is at The George Kerferd Hotel set in the picturesque heritage gardens of Mayday Hills. Mayday Hills also has an eventful history and there are ghost walks available on the Saturday night.

Our conference theme this year is 'Driving to the Future' and Georgie Stayches from Fetching Events presents 'Driving to the Future - How to nurture and develop your best volunteer base'.

This year we've invited a dinner speaker with Joann Formosa OAM, Australian Para Equestrian who won Gold at the 2012 London Paralympics.

We are also having a tour of Billsons Brewery that hosts the carriage museum. This will be on Saturday afternoon after the AGM.

Once more we have a range of stands and if you would like to have a stand please contact:

[katewholagan@icloud.com](mailto:katewholagan@icloud.com)

So come and book your accommodation at The George Kerferd and let them know you are coming to the ACDS Conference.

*See you there!*



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Photo credit: Gary Bosely



## 2019 ALCOA AUSTRALIAN COMBINED DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Champion Novice Pony 91 under 121cm - Sarah Suvaljko - Glen Avon Jackman. Photo: Eddie Srblin.



Champion Novice Pony 121 ne 149cm – Brendan Dwyer – Ridgway (owned by Dennis Wise). Photo: Eddie Srblin.



# 2019 ALCOA AUSTRALIAN COMBINED DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champion Novice Horse over 149cm – Niamh Tester – Trapalanda Downs Quo Vardis. Photo: Eddie Srblin.



Champion Intermediate Pony 121 ne 149cm – Lorraine Cairns – Narcoola Parc Dylan (owned by Sandy Elliot). Photo: Eddie Srblin.



# 2019 ALCOA AUSTRALIAN COMBINED DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Champion Pony Pair 91 ne 149cm - Vera Sulc - Hawkwood Rosita Rose Petal & Ashcroft Gloss. Photo: Eddie Srblin.



Champion Horse Pair over 149cm - Carol Hammond - Tatiara Ruby & The Chancer. Photo: Eddie Srblin.



# 2019 ALCOA AUSTRALIAN COMBINED DRIVING CHAMPIONSHIPS



Champion Pony Tandem 91 ne 149cm - Edward Grivell - Sugar & Spice Girl. Photo: Eddie Srblin.



Kim McKenzie - Billy Bathgate. Photo: Eddie Srblin.



Sally Allington - Licorice Twist. Photo: Eddie Srblin.

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## Mr Versatility!

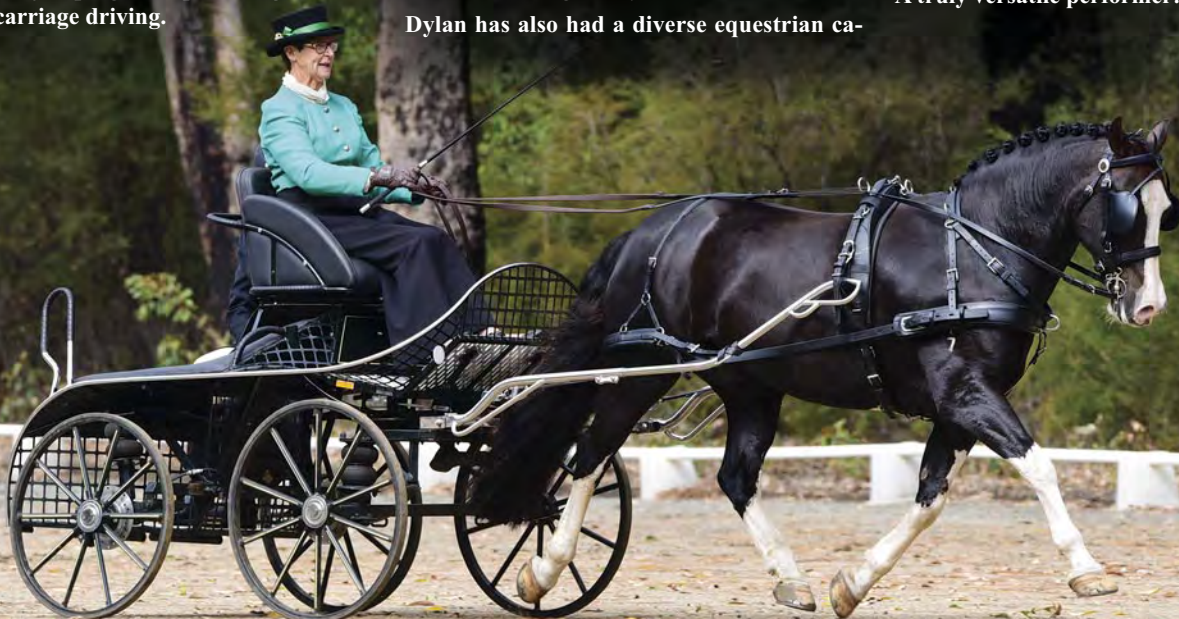
**NARCOOLA PARC DYLAN** (Dylan to his friends) is a 10 year old Welsh Cob gelding; his dam, Narcoola Parc Balweena was bred by Athol Purchas, and is a full sister to Narcoola Parc Baldwin. All this line of ponies bred by Athol were very versatile in all aspects of equestrian including dressage, eventing, show jumping, campdrafting, and of course, carriage driving.

Dylan has competed in three National CDE Championships and has won at all three with three different drivers; Karen Rogers won the Pony Pair class in 2014 with Baldwin and Dylan; Sandy Elliott who owns Dylan, won in Monato in 2017 as a novice single; and Lorraine Cairns drove Dylan to success in the Intermediate Large Pony class this Easter.

Dylan has also had a diverse equestrian ca-

reer in show jumping, eventing, dressage, games and stockwork. Only two weeks after the Nationals, Dylan competed at Wooroloo Horse Trials in the EVA65 class with Sophie Pope (who also drove at the Nationals) to place third in the class and finish on their dressage score.

A truly versatile performer!



*Dylan with Lorraine Cairns in the Dressage at the 2019 Alcoa Australian CDE Champs – Photo: Eddie Srblin.*

*Right: Dylan with Sandy Elliot on the Dwellingup course. Photo Ginnie James.*

*Far right: Dylan jumping his first Six-bar at 105cm, ridden by Olivia Swan.*



*Dylan and Sophie Pope show some style on the cross country at Wooroloo CNC. Photo: Campbell Sinclair – Silverfern Photography.*





# DRIVING VALKENSWAARD INTERNATIONAL



*Above: Elizabeth Lawrence. Below: Tor van den Berge. Photos: Amy Mundell Equestrian Photography.*









# DRIVING VALKENSWAARD INTERNATIONAL

BY PETER LEE

THE DVI 4\* DRIVING EVENT was held at Exell Equestrian Reserve, the home of Boyd and Preetha Exell, from 30th May to 2nd June 2019. There were 34 horse four-in-hand, and 43 horse pairs entered for the competition.

Australia had three entries: Boyd driving his team, Elizabeth Lawrence driving a team supplied by Boyd, and Tor van den Berge driving a pair supplied by Owen and Janet Pilling from the UK.

For Elizabeth, this was the first competition driving a horse team and for Tor, the third time driving the pair.

From an Australian perspective, it was great to see the Australian team in action together.

The Exell Equestrian Reserve is in the middle of a huge equine area, with Tops International Arena across the road, Van den Wiel Harness four kilometres up the road, and Van den Heuvel carriages around the corner.

It all began for Elizabeth back in early 2019 when she was at Bega having a lesson with Boyd during his summer holidays; he asked Elizabeth to drive Byron McIntyre's horse team and asked Byron to drive Elizabeth's pony team during a lesson. He must have seen something at the time as he contacted Elizabeth in March to see if she may be interested in driving one of his horse teams at DVI. Elizabeth accepted his offer and Boyd offered his indoor team. They both acknowledged at the time that the indoor team would struggle in the dressage phase.

Elizabeth spoke to a few people she knew were interested in going to DVI and quickly the support crew came together and plans were put in place. Three weeks before the competition, Elizabeth, Peter Lee and Gavin Robson flew out for the Netherlands. The afternoon after they arrived, Boyd and his support staff arrived back from Royal Windsor, and Elizabeth had her first taste of the horses, sent out to drive on the forest tracks with a pair that had not gone to Windsor. For the next few days, the routine was clean stables, harness up and work horses through the forest tracks, so Elizabeth could get used to driving the horses. A few days later, the team was put to the carriage and she drove the team for the first time. Nerve racking for her but she survived! The practice arena was erected in the training field and then it was practice the dressage test in order get the horses used to a dressage test and Elizabeth to get used to driving horses in the required test. Boyd kept a watchful eye on proceedings with helpful hints along the way. Intermingled amongst dressage practice was some cones practice and obstacle training.

A few days after Elizabeth arrived, Tor arrived with his daughter, making the permanent move to the Netherlands after having been back to Australia to pack up and arrange for some of his horses to come to Exell Equestrian Reserve. His wife Mel and the other children arrived a few days later and they all settled into the house they

are renting next to the stables.

The stables at Boyd and Preetha's were very busy, not only with Boyd's two teams, the indoor team Elizabeth was driving, and the horses Tor was driving, but also the horses from Misdee Wrigley-Miller and James Miller (USA), from Wayne Van Niekerk (South Africa), and a number of other horses and ponies in residence. Gavin was kept busy not only helping Elizabeth, but also doing ground work for Boyd and Preetha with a number of horses, and driving a pair of new horses for Wayne.

When Boyd arrived back from Windsor, Paul 'the motor mower man' and Lorraine 'the painter and decorator' Cairns jumped out of the truck. Boyd and Paul got on the mowers and I don't think Paul got off for two and a half weeks. Lorraine in the meantime was painting, looking after plants and decorating obstacles, and the general area.

There were also two other Australian's hard at work. Elizabeth's daughter Ruby and mother Diana Morton who arrived early May as Ruby was doing a month's work experience at the stables, and Diana joined the flower planting and watering team.

About one week before the event, Sue Campbell from the UK and Johanna Vakkuri from Finland arrived to join the team. Sue had groomed for Elizabeth in the UK several years ago and spent a summer in Australia, as did Johanna. Then Elizabeth's sister Esther arrived with her husband Mark.

Action started on the Tuesday as the trucks rolled in and the event office opened for business. Unfortunately for Elizabeth, she was down to four horses as one could not compete.

On Thursday, it was dressage for the pairs. There were some lovely tests, and mid afternoon Tor went in to do his test, with Mel who was backstepping – the turnout looking resplendent. Tor left the arena in first place with a dressage score of 47.31; he held the lead to the last competitor and ended the day in second place.

Friday was dressage for the four-in-hand teams and Elizabeth was on late morning. Misdee Wrigley-Miller kindly lent her training presentation carriage to Elizabeth and the crew had been busy washing and polishing everything. When Elizabeth left the stables for the dressage, everything was spick and span. Some last minute pointers from Boyd and she entered the arena. Her test was very capable and to the level of expectation for the indoor team. She was happy when she left the arena.

Boyd came in later in the afternoon and drove a stunning dressage test with a score of 35.19 and was in first place, some six points in the lead.

Saturday was marathon day and the obstacles were tough and of a standard befitting a 4\* event. Tor was the first of the Australian's to go out on the marathon. He was quick through the

obstacles but the class was very competitive and he finished sixteenth.

For Elizabeth, this time Misdee lent her the training marathon carriage. By the time Elizabeth left the stables, for the marathon, she and her backsteppers, Gavin and Byron, had walked the obstacles seven times. Elizabeth, whilst a bit slower than other competitors, was determined to finish which she did, even though she had a few problems in some tight obstacles.

Once again Boyd started the marathon mid afternoon and drove fast obstacles to finish fourth overall.

Sunday was cones day and the course was long and difficult with many stepovers, blue cones, etc. At the suggestion of one of the sponsors, the cones had been painted black and the balls gold and they looked impressive on the green lawn. Many trees and flowers were used to decorate the course and it was a sight to be seen.

Tor was the first of the Australian's to compete on Sunday. He drove a competent round against tough opposition. Elizabeth was next to go in the afternoon when the teams took their turn and drove a clear round with no balls down but had time penalties. She was delighted with the round and finished on a high. Boyd drove last and also drove a clear round with 2.07 time penalties. To keep it in perspective, there was only one double clear round for the day driven by a pair driver.

Overall, Tor finished 14th in the pair competition, Boyd won the four-in-hand competition with Elizabeth coming in 24th. The Australian team finished fifth in the Nations Cup.

Another highlight of the weekend for Diana Morton (Elizabeth's mother) came when she was invited to judge the ladies class in the Dutch warmbloods display.

For Elizabeth, we believe she is the first Australian female to compete at a 4\* FEI driving event, a wonderful achievement.

For those who are interested in seeing an international driving event, DVI should be on your bucket list. The presentation of the Exell Equestrian Reserve was a credit to Boyd, Preetha and their team of helpers. Competitors mentioned that the dressage arena was one of the best in the world and the obstacles are in a horseshoe configuration around the house and stables, such that you can easily walk from one obstacle to another to follow a competitor.

There was also plenty of nightly entertainment with the bike challenge, tug of war and the party night.

Elizabeth would like to thank all her crew, Boyd and Preetha for the opportunity, Misdee Wrigley-Miller for the loan of the carriages, and all those who supported her on social media from Australia. Will she be back? Stay tuned..

*Photos © Amy Mundell Equestrian Photography*

*Left: Boyd Exell. Photos with thanks to Amy Mundell Equestrian Photography.*



# CLUB NEWS from NEW SOUTH WALES

## Liverpool Range Harness Club

OUR FIRST DRIVE for the year was held at 'The Dip', Breeza on March 15-17 2019. Our hosts were Sam Clift and Kate Wilson. We arrived on the Friday arvo, picked a spot and set up camp and yards, along with Chris Ward, Geoff Skewes, Sally and Doug Jones, and Cherry Steele, as well as Neil and Rosemary Munn from the Gulgong Club. After setting up, we all sat around talking for a while before moving over to The Dip cottage, where we cooked and had dinner then socialised to about 10.30pm, when we headed for bed.

Next morning John McKee and Mark Murphy arrived about 9am. We all harnessed up and set off at 10am. With Sam Clift leading the way as escort, we did a short 9km drive past the Blinky drinkers and back. These are drinkers set up for the koala population during the drought. Nine sulkies were on the drive. Kate and John were both driving new horses and both went very well. After lunch John and Judy Tonkiss arrived with their caravan. We harnessed up again and at about 2.30pm headed off over the black soil plains following escort Sam, showing us his irrigation works, pumps and huge dam he has installed for when we eventually get rain. It is big enough to water ski on. It was then onwards onto neighbours, the Duddy's property, past the old shearing shed and buildings, then across the plains again, to arrive back at base by 5.30pm. We had covered 23km in the afternoon so a total of 32km had been driven for the day. We all had dinner at the cottage, and then held our club meeting.

On Sunday we awoke to light rain, which began to get heavier and set in, so a decision was made to pack up and go home. No one felt like getting wet, and all were happy with the drive the day before. A big thank you to Sam and Kate for their hospitality and great drive.

*Peter Honeyman*

## Central Coast Carriage Driving Club

OUR CLUB had its first 'Come and Try Day for Juniors' on March 24. Leading up to this we advertised and were inundated with phone calls and enquiries. It was an early start at 7am, to set up three training courses for the children to try their new skills when they arrived.

The first group of children were from the one family of six, and they were all experienced mini trotter competitors. Although they had experience on the track, they had no experience prior to our day in driving circles or serpentines, and some had never been able to take their horses on a pleasure drive. So they all started from scratch. By the end of each individual lesson, they were all trying to better each other around the cones set up. They were eager to learn and were not wanting to go flat out, like we imagined they would. They were sensible, intent on learning, and grew some amazing skills to take home and utilize on their own ponies and horses. The second family then came with their two children and enjoyed just having a nice pleasure drive with the donkeys. As the children are all so competitive at the track, and everything is so busy and noisy, the parents commented that it was 'so different to see such a relaxed animal and child'. They enjoyed the peacefulness of carriage driving for the first time,

and some relished the obstacles, whilst others enjoyed the leisurely drive around the grounds.

We had around 46 enquiries and a full day of driving with the children. The parents asked lots of questions and we are told they enjoyed the family atmosphere of our club very much. It was fantastic to get the next generation of drivers coming forward, and some with amazing ability and talent. We look forward to seeing them in the future.

Several new memberships were gained by having this day, so we encourage other clubs to follow suit and get their local Pony Clubs and Mini Trotting Clubs involved. By the end of the day my ponies Oakey and Whinnie were drained, but behaved so well for these children, as did Pirate and Picasso, the Blackmans' donkeys. Margaret Kelly's and Linda Bagnall's ponies Rosie and Tuff took a couple of drives around the grounds too. It was really good to see Tuff enjoying himself so much, and Rosie doing exceptionally well, being only her third drive in the vehicle. A huge thank you to Dave Grant for once again putting on a great BBQ for the club. The day was hot, but well worth the effort.

The Blackmans competed at the National Donkey All Breeds Society of Australia Show at Young in southern NSW recently, and came away with some exceptional accolades. It was a long drive, nearly ten hours for some, to get there. It had a huge program including riding, driving, agility and led classes. Well done to the Blackman family.

Margaret Walmsley and Gryphon took Warren Ricketts as groom on the Hunter Club pleasure drive at Wollombi on March 10. It was Warren's first time in a sulky after his leg operation, and he thoroughly enjoyed it. Another of our members, Noeline Cassettari, took Thumberlina for a drive in Scheyville National Park with Hills Club members Leanne Perceval and Angela Eberle on March 24. It was hot but very enjoyable.

Karen Pryor and Mary Grant went to the Newcastle Show, to make sure that harness classes would not be cancelled there in future. Karen pulled out all the bling in her viceroy in preparation for the Sydney Royal, and Mary took her CDE vehicle. Karen's Tommy (Madison Park Knee Hi) won Champion in both the Horse and Turnout classes, and Mary's Oakey was Reserve in both. It was a fun morning to get out and about with other club members, competitive or not, and it showed our carriage world to the public. We might be a small club of only two years but by gosh we keep busy, and our members are always up to something involved with driving. Our next event is an indoor/outdoor training weekend on May 18/19, including a small trial competition on the Sunday if drivers want to take part. Camping is available and lots of fun will be had. We hope to see members of other clubs join us.

*Mary Grant*

## North Coast Carriage Club

AFTER THE FIRST CLUB DAY of 2019 was rained out, members looked forward to the rescheduled club day on March 10. Renae Connell was hosting the day and it was at the tiny locality of Megan, outside Dorrigo. They had the full use of the Megan Recreation Grounds and

Renae, assisted by Rowena and Lloyd Walker, had devised the most hilarious Obstacle Course for everyone's amusement.

Based on a Valentine's Day theme, drivers and their grooms first had to post their RSVP into the letterbox, and pass by the bridal shop and put on the (ill fitting) dinner jacket. Then they had to walk along the aisle (a long forgotten cricket pitch), take possession of a water balloon to throw at the crazy ex-girlfriend, drive to the florist and pick out a bouquet of flowers, before driving with a big flourish through the cones spelling out L O V E ! The loudspeaker serenaded drivers with appropriate songs the whole time.

One of the North Coast Club's aims is to provide opportunities for members to expose their horses to new, but usually quite common things. The course certainly achieved that object. Emphasis is also placed on precision and patience, halting adjacent to an obstacle and standing patiently. These two aspects need to be foundational learning for both horse and driver, before the complicating factor of pace is put into the mix. Just like horses need groundwork to create good harness horses, so too must the drivers have it!

Whilst the adult drivers certainly enjoyed themselves, the club's four junior drivers showed that they are developing greater confidence in taking the reins. Tully Naylor did an excellent job at quietly and confidently instructing the other juniors in harnessing up his little 9hh pony, and yes, the adjustments were checked and found to be well done. This is a lesson that adults can learn from. One doesn't need to have years of driving under your belt to pass on bits of knowledge to others, within your ability and competence. Some things don't always go to plan. The camera decided to malfunction at an inappropriate moment, and some of the juniors thought the ex-girlfriend should be a little more of a distraction, so they filled her bikini top up with freshly mown grass - creating quite a bit of hilarity! Members are now looking forward to see how much fun can be had with an Easter Egg Hunt on the next scheduled club day.

*Rowena Walker*

## Hills District Harness Club

SEVERAL MEMBERS and friends enjoyed an afternoon drive in Scheyville National Park on Sunday February 24 2019. On the drive were David and Julia Cranwell and their pair of Clydesdales, with Debra Mavin and Deborah Gersbach seated in the back of the wagon, Leanne Perceval and daughters Tristal and Nyssa with Sweetpea, Noeline Cassettari driving Thumberlina and Angela Eberle with Pebbles. They drove for about an hour and a half through the bush along sandy tracks, listening to the bellbirds.

Sunday March 10 saw the club's first non competition Sporting Day for 2019, held at Rossmore Reserve. It was once again a very popular day, with 18 drivers attending. To avoid the predicted afternoon heat, it was decided to bring the starting time forward. Eddie Dobbin and Janet Muspratt arrived at the grounds just before 8am and were quickly followed by the Thompson family, Kirstin Feddersen, Charlotte Hyles and Sally Crowell, all keen to help set up the equipment. With so many hands on deck, the cones course, square bending





*Top of page: Drivers on the Liverpool Range Club's The Dip driving weekend. Above: Cherry Steel, Sally Jones, John McKee and Kate Wilson on the plains. Photos: P Honeyman Below left: Camden members Maxine Saliba, Carol Fitzpatrick, Sally Crowell and Charlotte Hyles in the garden of the Round House on the Twilight Drive. Photo: C Hyles. Below: North Coast club day at Megan with a Valentine's Day theme: 'The Flower Shop'. More photos from this day on the inside back cover. Photo: R Connell.*







*Line up of drivers at the Hills Club Sporting Day. Photo: K Thompson.*

and the two marathon obstacles were soon all in place.

Everyone else arrived quite early too and most people were warming up their horses around the grounds by 10am. Stewards for the activities were also in position by 10. Debra Mavin and Deb Gersbach looked after the Square Bending, Eddie Dobbin, Debbie Lyshak and Kiah Lyshak were in charge of the Cones Course, Kay Rose and Noel and Pam Fisher were the judge and timekeepers on one of the MOs, and Tiffany Cornall and Janet looked after the other MO, an unlettered one, with six gates.

The drivers were Noeline Cassettari (Thumbelina), Carol Fitzpatrick (Ricky), Charlotte Hyles (Ziva), Andrea Casper (Caesar), Angela Eberle (Pebbles), Sally Crowell (Monty), Danni Katon with King, Jeanna Kinleyside (Chocolate), Carolyn Kinleyside (Charlie), Kirstin Feddersen (Zed), Emily Thompson (Buzz), Leanne Perceval (Sweetpea), Karen Silvester (Ziggy), Christine Dunn (Patches), Nigel Burton (Ion), Vicky Connelly (Mickey), Max Ridge (Jerry) and Annette Campbell (Netty). Everyone lined up for an impressive photo at 11am.

Though it was a non competition day, there are always those who especially like to test themselves for speed. This time, four drivers and their horses stood out - Jeanna Kinleyside, who is now 16 and entitled to drive by herself, and had Chocolate in her brand new CDE four wheeler, Emily Thompson also driving a new four wheeler, with friend Julia Malvagna doing the backstepping, Kirsten Feddersen with Mark Thompson as backstepper, and Christine Dunn driving Patches. They all certainly made watching them exciting!

By midday it was starting to warm up and everyone had had enough driving, so horses were unharnessed, the cones and equipment were quickly packed up into Eddie's truck, and everyone gathered on the Clubhouse verandah for lunch in the shade. Kirsten then presented her little pony Tadpole to the group, showing off her various talents - all done on cue and without a halter or bridle. What a little trick she is!

#### **Camden Harness Club**

CAMDEN MEMBERS gathered at Sue and Alan Sharp's Dairy at Brownlow Hill, Camden on February 24th 2019 for a Twilight Drive. The mild afternoon weather was kind so we had a good roll-up. Maxine and Fred Saliba drove Lucy, Danni Firefly-Katon had her mini pony King, who determinably 'would NOT be left behind', Carol Fitzpatrick drove her new horse Nicky, Charlotte Hyles drove Ziva, and Sally Crowell drove her pony Monty.

Maxine enthusiastically led the way heading off around the farm. Little Lucy might be small but she is fit and keen. The rest of us were happy to trot along, swapping positions when we felt like it. Fred was a terrific groom and gate warden. We had been out about half an hour when we turned back towards Brownlow Hill Loop Road, on an adventure to 'discover the Round House'. The Round House is an octagonal brick cottage with a corrugated iron roof. It was built as a gate house in association with the 'Government Station' established by Governor Macquarie in 1815. In 1960 the Wilson family rebuilt the ruined flood damaged building, adapting and extending it into a family home. In the early 2000s it was available for a short time, as a wedding reception venue. The huge old trees surrounding the well kept garden still give a welcoming 'Old World' charm to the place. The new owners were pleased to see us and invited us into the garden to take photos. We then gently trotted the six kms home in the evening cool, feeling serenely blessed as we admired the setting sun.

*Charlotte Hyles*

ON THE 15th of March we attended Moss Vale Show with my Shetland pony Chocolate. It was a beautiful day with a good turnout of people and horses. I'd like to thank the judge of the day Max Pearce for guiding me in the correct direction with all things harness. His tips really benefited my pony and me that day. As the day progressed you could certainly see a positive difference in the way Chocolate worked and the way I handled him. Chocolate and I won the Hard-tyred turnout, Novice horse/pony, Pleasure Pony ne 12hh, Junior driver, Reserve Champion non hackney horse or pony, and Champion Driver! Mum (Carolyn Kinleyside) also won the Lady driver class.

We then attended Blayney Show on March 23, also with Chocolate. It was a warm sunny day and there were a fair few miniatures and a couple viceroyes. I really enjoyed going to an Ag show in an area that I haven't been to before. As a Junior I feel making it to as many harness events as possible is key, so we not only teach newcomers but get others involved in the sport itself. It's key to have recruits coming through so we are able to pass on previous knowledge and ensure the sport of Carriage Driving stays alive. Overall Chocolate and I came home with Champion miniature or Shetland, Champion Pleasure horse or pony in harness, Reserve Champion driver and wins in the Non hackney pony 10-12hh, Shetland in harness, Pleasure pony ne 12hh and Junior driver classes as well as some other placings.

*Jeanna Kinleyside (a junior driver)*

#### **Hunter Horse Driving Society**

THE MORNING WAS STILL, shrouding the historic village of Wollombi in a heavy mist cloak, for the Hunter Club pleasure drive. The stockyard entertained two new mothers and their beautiful month old calves, awaiting the warmth of the day. Would the day clear? The previous night had given us a dazzling display of "blue" lightening & thunder, and rain so loud, the thoughts of the next day's carriage drive were drowned out.

As the four carriage drivers with their horses arrived, so the mist dissipated and out came the sun, brightening the day with blue sky and fluffy cottonwool clouds. Cheerful greetings and appreciative cups of tea, with home-made cake, laid the scene for the rest of the day.

The drive, organised by Margie Walmsley, meandered through the valley floor, passing beneath canopies of mature trees, interesting rock formations and avenues of ghost gums. Paddocked horses galloped around, astonished at the wheels and trotting legs of their mates. Drivers and horses were in their element. Margie had Warren Ricketts as a passenger, so excited at being back in a carriage after a time away. Rosemary Laing drove with groom Faye, while Michelle Winter and sister, Kylie dos Remedios, drove individually. The lead car was driven by Helen & Paul Murrell, while Kevin Fayth policed the rear. After 9.23 km we all stopped at property 923! It was a lovely clearing partly shaded, until the very warm sun made us move. Lunch was enjoyed by all, horses and humans, before the monthly meeting brought us back to reality.

Reluctantly, horses were re-harnessed, and the return journey was all too quickly over. It was a wonderful sunny day of camaraderie, laughter and driving open carriages in the beautiful Wollombi valley. What else could one want?

Hunter Club member Mick Carey who has worked hard to keep harness classes at the Muswellbrook Ag Show, was very pleased the show held at the start of April, at last had a decent number of competitors in the harness classes, after looking very shaky for a few years. Liz O'Brien was the judge and Yvette Furner the steward. Richard Edler and his standardbred Caddie won the supreme champion and received the Pearl and Alex Herbert Memorial Perpetual Trophy donated by Mick. Kristy and Lucy French with Butterfly were also amongst the successful harness competitors. After the classes Mick thanked all the competitors, the judge and steward for their much appreciated support of the show.

*Helen Murrell*





Above: At the Hills Club Sporting Day: Left: Angela Eberle with Pebbles. Photo: D Casper. Right: Emily Thompson and Julia Malvagna with Buzz. Photo: K Thompson.



Above: At the Hills Club Sporting Day: Left: Christine Dunn motoring along with Patches. Photo: D Casper. Right: Max Ridge driving Jerry. Photo: D Casper. Below left: Kylie dos Remedios and Michelle Winter on the Hunter Club's Wollombi drive. Right: Rosemary Laing and Faye Barnes following Margie Walmsley and Warren Ricketts. Photos: P Murrell.





### Riverina Carriage Driving Society

MICHAEL JONES and his Clydesdale have recently participated in a number of heavy horse events and exhibitions – at the Heavy Horse Working Day at Gundagai, a Museum Open Day at Junee and demonstrating chaff cutting using horse works at the annual Ganmain Historical Day.

The Club was hesitant to commit to its annual Joe Hawkins Cup CDE this year because of a clash of dates with the Victorian CDE Championships. However Tracey Ellis offered to be event secretary and took over the reins. (Being a Clydesdale breeder I prefer to say she put her shoulder into the collar). Tracey, together with Event Director Mal Welsh, and officials Karen Rogers, Kerrie Rosetta, David Royle, Trevor Brand and their spouses and partners organised a very successful and friendly event. (see Report)

*Michael Jones*

### Hill Tops Carriage Driving Club

THE HILL TOPS CLUB hosted the annual Anne Synnot Cup on Sunday 3rd March 2019. Judges were impressed by the skill level of drivers in the dressage and, despite the dry conditions, the grounds were presented in impeccable order by the Harris family. As an added bonus, Trevor Brand attended the previous day to give some lessons, which were well received. Eventual Cup winners were Lynne Dominish in the Pony Class and Lyn Callaghan in the Horse Class.

Members were in full force attending the annual Joe Hawkins Cup at Marrar in mid March. Debbie Dunn did an exemplary dressage test in the large Novice Small Pony class driving Ranni Park Hearts Ablaze to gain equal first placing. Peter Dunn followed suit coming first in the Cones against a large and competitive field in the Novice Large Pony Class driving Nanardine Danny Boy. Gail Bain meanwhile was top of her class in Novice Horse and had the Best Overall Score for the weekend driving the impressive big grey, Galty Mountain Boy. Tess Smith also did very well coming second overall for the weekend in the Small Pony Class with little Koriana Absolute Star. Nikki Flynn had a blast grooming for Alice Austin from Victoria and Warren Harris joined forces with the Chariots on Fire team. Judy and Garry Harris also came along on to cheer on Hill Tops and Di Murray was one of our dressage judges.

Next was a huge trip for some brave Hill Tops souls, to take on the Victorians on their home turf for their annual CDE Championships. Debbie Dunn was camp mum for the weekend while Tess Smith chose to dip her toe, entering the Level 4 and coming 2nd Overall driving Koriana Absolute Star. The weather was extreme and the competition was fierce for the Championship titles, but Peter Dunn with Warren Harris as back stepper defied the odds to come out victorious as overall winner of the Novice Large Pony class driving Nanardine Danny Boy! Future events planned by Hill Tops Club include an Indoor/Outdoor weekend at Tumut Showgrounds over the weekend of 1st and 2nd June which promises to be great fun!

*Tess Smith*

### Bungendore Carriage Driving Society

SEVERAL Bungendore members including Jen Brennan, Lisa Harrington, Tamara Abed, Lyn Callaghan, the McIntyre family, Zoe Collier, Bailey Jane Hass and Leonie Morse (apologies to

anyone I have forgotten) had lessons with Bram Chardon at Bundanoon. There were good reports all round, with many commenting on how humble he was. The current World Champion conducted lessons for all levels and his energy and focus was exemplary. The Bungendore Club had three junior drivers participating and celebrating birthdays. Following the Bram lessons, a few Bungendore members were involved in a Scurry exhibition, facilitated by Max Pearce, at the Canberra Royal Show. It was a fantastic exhilarating couple of evenings. The Show Society very generously supplied entry tickets, stabling and prizes.

The Club ran the Munro Cup event on March 9/10 2019 with the prestigious Munro Cup being won by Tamara Abed with Keyi Corroboree (Robby), whilst several club members attended the Riverina Club's Joe Hawkins Cup CDE at Marrar on March 16/17 2019. By all accounts it was a successful well run event.

On April 6 we held a Fun/Training Day at Witwood. Everyone seemed to enjoy the relaxed social atmosphere and we welcomed three new members. The shared Pot Luck lunch was a marathon obstacle in itself, with a wide range of goodies to eat.

Three Bungendore Club junior members were very fortunate to have lessons with Bram Chardon recently. Drivers Zoe Collier (11), Harry McIntyre (10) and Bailey Jane Haas (9) were delighted to be photographed with Bram and the fabulous cake at his celebratory dinner. In true Bungendore Club tradition, all the youngsters including Elise McIntyre and Sonny and James Collier helped clear the tables after the dinner, and did the washing up. What a great job they did too!

*Jen Brennan*

### Gulgong Heritage Harness Association

GRAB THE REINS AND GO! Our March drive ended up going well despite a wild storm on the Friday night. Members from three other clubs came to join us at Laheys Creek. Luckily we were all set up when the large wind and rain storm hit. We were about half a km from the centre of it. Trees were blown down, branches littered the roads and flash flooding got the creeks flowing. A large shed about 4 km away was blown to pieces and was one big twisted mass of steel. Neil and Rosemary Munn who were arriving late, ran into the main storm front and had to turn back with the main road blocked from fallen trees.

By Saturday morning it was all clear and the drive started. Some horses hadn't seen so much water over the roads for quite a while and it showed. I jumped in with Le-roy Trengove driving his new horse, who did not like the look of the first well-flowing creek crossing. Now either Le-roy or the horse decided to try a new sulky sport - mountain climbing! I stayed with him for a while then decided to abandon ship. All turned out well, but the talk around the fire that night was that the sport might not take on that quickly.

On our return that afternoon besides dodging fallen branches across the roads, the creek crossings were down somewhat. All up about 38 km was driven for the day.

On Sunday morning, after bacon and eggs, we did a short 18 km trip so those with a long journey home could leave after lunch. The rain didn't bother us. It is sorely needed in the spot we camped at.

The drive was so good, we are thinking of doing

a week's drive around the area. Camping in the same spot is much better than breaking camp every day, especially for members who come on their own. The drivers and co-pilots were Le-roy & Joanne Trengove, Robbie Bennett, Sam Loveday, Jeff Skewes, Chris Ward, Mark Murphy, John & Janet Hetherington and Neil & Rosemary Munn in spirit.

*John Hetherington*

### Reedy Creek Equestrian Club

UNFORTUNATELY for John Moyes and myself the two horses we were training for the Goulburn Club's Enduro at Yalbraith, at the end of January, both came down with injuries and mishaps, which meant they didn't make it to the starting line. John then took on doing the TPR work and I did my best to be generally helpful, so we still felt very much part of the event.

With extremely high temperature predicted, the competitors were happy to start in the first light of dawn. The tree lined roads provided good shade and with the hard work put in by the Goulburn Club, the event was a great success. John and I were then more determined to participate in the first Endurance event held at Ruffy in Victoria. It was instigated by David Cockcroft and organized by the Longwood Club. It was an amazing venue and involved some beautiful drives. For me, however, the most overwhelming experience was when John became unwell, and we were helped in every possible way by fellow competitors, organizers and even strangers. We regret we cannot thank these people adequately for the kindness, thoughtful gestures and time they gave up to help. Our long lasting memory of the first Ruffy Enduro will be discovering what very special people we had around us there. Thank you again.

Meanwhile, Amanda Taylor and Jan Pierce have had success with their Clydesdale show team, whilst Carolyn and Amanda Blakely have also done very well with their horses at shows. At Yass Show their Shire horse Southern Cross Hamish was awarded Champion Led Shire as well as Supreme Horse or Pony in Harness, and their Shetland Mulwaree Diamond won two turnout classes. Mulwaree Diamond did well at the Gunning Show, and Southern Cross Hamish was Champion Led Shire and Champion Heavy Horse in Harness at the Crookwell Show. Southern Cross Hamish also attended the National Heavy Horse Show at Werribee in Victoria, where he won Supreme Show Cart Turnout and Champion Led Shire Gelding.

*Kath Cole*

### Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club

TAMWORTH MEMBERS have shown great support for local shows in the last few months by attending Muswellbrook Show, Manilla Show, the IMHR (Miniatures) Nationals in Tamworth, the Standardbred Championships in Tamworth and of course our own club day in Moonbi. Elizabeth O'Brien was asked to judge at the Muswellbrook Show, so I, being Liz's ever attentive student, went along to steward for her. Being part of the action in Harness and just being at these local shows is awesome but you learn so much being an official in the ring as well. Three of our members and their trusty steeds were at this event - Richard Edler and Caddie, and Kristy and Lucy French and Butterfly. They all did us proud as usual, and participated in both led and harness





Top of page: Hill Tops' member Peter Dunn driving Nanardine Danny Boy, winner of the Novice Large Pony class at the Victorian CDE Championships. Photo: T Smith. Above: Tamworth Club: Left: Margaret Broadbent, Yvette Furner, Margaret Neely and Kristy French at the IMHR Show. Photo: E O'Brien. Centre: Junior member Lucy French with her ribbons from the IMHR Show at Tamworth. Photo: K French. Right: Renee Howe learning new hand positioning driving Maggie at the Tamworth Club rally day. Photo: E O'Brien



Above left: Gulgong: Drivers assembling at the Gulgong Club's Laheys Creek drive. Photo: J Hetherington. Bungendore Club: Above right: Juniors doing follow the leader dressage – Bailey Hass with Bronwen Pratt, Jesse Hass with Leonie Morse and Jen Brennan with Hunter Hass bringing up the rear at the training day at Witwood. Photo: J Brennan. Below: Lineup of Scurry drivers at the Canberra Royal Show. Photo: E Brown.





events. I love the fact that our members travel to these regional shows to ensure we have a harness presence there!

The Manilla Show was our next day out and we had a great turn out. A few of us strutted our stuff in the led events there too, and dazzled everyone with a selection of placings including Champion Pony ribbons! Trina Hook Redgwell and Ronan were a standout in the Light Harness ring with Champion Horse/Pony, Reserve Champion Turnout, and 1st in the Pleasure Pony. Her sons Harry and Angus were awarded equal first in the Junior driver class too. Margaret Broadbent driving Harry was 1st in the Lady Driver and Karl Olssen and Soho Eros got Champion Turnout. Karl Olssen's niece Fiona Zibens did very well driving solo for the first time, and came 2nd in the Lady driver. Just for a bit of fun I entered my "Triplets" Walt Disney and Gilbert into the pet competition they won a 1st and 2nd place for most unusual pet and best tricks!

The IMHR Nationals turned out to be exciting for our club members with National Champions all around. Lucy French and Butterfly did very well in the Youth events, whilst Margaret Neely, Margaret Broadbent, Kristy French and I were also very successful across a lot of events with our horses. Margaret Neely's awards included winning the National Champion Small Horse Obstacles, Margaret Broadbent won several Reserve Champions, including Reserve Champion Whip, Kristy French also won a number of Reserve Champions including Reserve Champion Small Horse Obstacles, whilst I had a particularly good day including receiving National Champion Whip and Champion Lady Driver as well as Reserve Grand Champion Little Horse in Harness.

The Standardbred Pleasure & Performance Horses Association held its 2019 State Championships at Tamworth Paceway on Saturday 6th April. They included show harness Standardbred driving classes and off the track harness classes. In conjunction with this show, the Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club hosted an ACDS open harness ring, giving all horses and ponies the opportunity to enjoy the day as well. Junior drivers were also included and had a great time. We were lucky enough to have Warren Ricketts as our judge for the day, so a big shout out to him for his generosity in supporting the show in this way.

Karl Olsson won the Pat Mannix Memorial State Grand Champion Harness Horse, in the SPPHA (Standardbred) Show, whilst Patsy Wicks won the Supreme Champion Harness Horse in the ACDS open ring. There were many other happy ribbon bearing ponies, horses and drivers as well, topping off an awesome day.

The most recent event for Tamworth Club members was the April Rally Day. It was a little different, with personalised dressage lessons for one hour each with our instructor Helen Baskerville from Queensland, and cones technique lessons done in pairs with our instructor Jim Cassidy also from Queensland. It was a great success.

*Yvette Furner*

### **Southern Highlands Carriage Club**

SINCE OUR CLUB renovations and training clinics have finished, several members have been competing in the first events of the season and doing well.

Tracey Ellis and pony Louie competed at both the Munro Cup at Witwood and the Anne Synnot event at Cootamundra. At the Joe Hawkins Cup at Marrar, Tracey stepped up as secretary of the event. It had a huge turn up, including many visitors from across the border. At Marrar her pony was driven by Brendan Dwyer in the Intermediate Large Pony, which they won. Amy Lucerne and Gail Bain also drove in this event, with Amy coming third in Novice Large Pony and Gail winning the Novice Horse with the new horse she has brought back from overseas. Tracey then travelled south to the Victorian CDE Championships where she was third in her class.

In the last few months the club has held very popular training clinics with Bram Chardon and Phil Marshall. Drivers have come from all over Australia to take part. Tracey Ellis and Keri Izard were two of our members who had lessons with Phil.

We recently welcomed Gail Bain and her partner Barry Topple to our club. They have moved into the area and after their next pitch at the Worlds title, will be bringing Michael back to life at Bundanoon!

By the time this edition is published, our Anzac CDE on April 27-28 will be over and also Phil Marshall's clinic in May, which is already nearly fully booked. Best to start planning for the next school from July 5 – 8.

The next event for the club is scheduled for Aug 31- Sept 1. It is the Southern NSW Indoor/Outdoor Series Final. It will be a cold one but the fun will be great, so make sure you get qualified in time and plan to be there.

*Faye Cairncross*

### **Ellmore Harness Club**

THE ARRIVAL of the autumn weather has meant that several Ellmore members have been out and about competing. Brendan Dwyer drove Tracey Ellis's pony Louie into first place in the Intermediate Large Pony class at the Riverina Club's Joe Hawkins Cup at Marrar on March 16/17, whilst Kookie Engelsman also competed, driving Hudson Sideshow in the Novice Large Pony class and placing 5th.

Club member Heidi Stevens judged at the National Donkey and Mule Show held in Young on March 9/10. Close to 40 donkeys and mules were on display after having travelled from Queensland, Victoria, Central Coast, ACT, and the New England area. Ellmore members Kristy and Cara Dwyer competed with great success. Good luck to Heidi at Sydney Royal Easter Show and to Brendan competing at the National CDE Championships in Western Australia over Easter.

*Auburn Carr*

### **BRAM CHARDON CLINIC**

Sat Feb 16 – Sun Feb 24 2019

SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS Carriage Club invited all ACDS and EA members to participate in Bram Chardon's Clinic, that was held

at the Southern Highlands Club grounds in Bundanoon. Bram arrived a few days after winning the World Indoor Final at Bordeaux in France. Camden Harness Club members embraced this opportunity, with Maxine Saliba driving Katut, Charlotte Hyles driving Ziva and Greg McDonald driving Fingal. All took advantage of two lessons each. Sally Crowell and Carol Fitzpatrick fence sat and assisted fellow members to ready themselves.

Bram has been giving clinics at Bundanoon for the past five years. We found that he is not only an accomplished young man but also an intuitive and talented coach. Lessons were broken down into easily understood basics with Bram quickly recognising each problem and offering exercises that helped drivers correct their steeds on the spot. We unanimously agreed that we had taken a big step forward in our driving and determined to put our new knowledge into practice. Gail Bain gave a humorous but most enlightening talk on her overseas driving experiences on the Wednesday afternoon. Gail and Barry will be leaving Australia again in April, 2019 for a further two years of training and competition in a bid for qualification to compete in the 2020 World Singles Championships in Europe. Bram entertained with some overseas videos for those who could stay for the last Saturday night dinner. We must give a big thanks to the Southern Highlands Club members who, as usual, were most hospitable and appeared seamlessly well organised, even offering dinner on four nights of the clinic.

*Charlotte Hyles (Camden Harness Club)*

### **SUCCESSFUL ACDS PROMOTION: PONY CLUBBERS GALORE!**

THIS WAS AN opportunity we couldn't pass up... The Zone 10 Pony Club Camp was held at the spacious Bong Bong Race Club grounds in Bowral on the weekend of 18- 19th May. We were invited to put on a demonstration of carriage driving for 75 pony clubbers and their parents! This came through my older daughter Caitlin, who is a Secretary of Berrima District Pony Club in Bowral. We decided to do an untimed Obsthathon to show our hosts some cone and MO driving. ACDS stalwart Brendan Dwyer generously agreed to design, build and judge the obsthathon. I produced a flyer to be circulated to NSW members of the ACDS and we drew 10 starters, a list of whom appears below.

Brendan arrived from Young on the Saturday afternoon to build the course, utilising 15 pairs of cones and two portable marathon obstacles, lent to us by the nearby Southern Highlands Carriage Club. We were allocated two hours before lunch on the Sunday and we took up the whole two hours. The camp program had divided the young riders into four colour groups to participate in all forms of horsemanship and games. We had two colour groups in the first hour and the other two in the second hour. We estimate that in excess of 50 children had a ride on a carriage as well as half a dozen parents towards the end. Such was the interest in getting rides on a carriage that all pony club colour groups were very late in arriving at their next camp activity.



# What is Equine ‘Wobbler’ Syndrome?

by John Kohnke BVSc RDA

**E**QUINE WOBBLER SYNDROME (EWS) is most commonly characterised by the ‘wobbly’ appearance or incoordinated movement of the hindlimbs of a horse suffering from the condition. These symptoms are directly related to the stenosis (narrowing) of the bony cervical vertebral canal, and profusion of intervertebral cartilaginous disks resulting in compression and damage to the spinal cord within the lower neck vertebrae. The condition is most commonly seen in young, immature horses in the early stages of growth and development, especially in yearlings on a high energy diet and with low or inadequate bone mineral and trace-mineral intake.

As a young horse develops, it may appear to develop an incoordinated gait, stumble over, drag a hind limb or sway as it walks. Typically, young horses suffering from the condition do not appear to be ‘sick’, instead they appear to be clumsy and awkward moving. Studies have shown that young colts are 3 times more likely to develop EWS compared to fillies of the same age. To this date, ponies and miniature horses are the only breeds of horses which have no known diagnosed cases of ‘Wobbler’ syndrome. Thor-

oughbred, Quarter Horses and Warmbloods are the most commonly affected large breeds of horses.

There are two distinct forms of ‘Wobbler’ Syndrome or CVM (Cervical Vertebrae Malformation) in immature horses. Cervical Vertebral Instability (CVI) typically affects horses from the age of 4 months to 12 months and is caused by malformations of the dorsal spines and wings of the cranial cervical (neck) vertebrae. Cervical Static Stenosis (CSS), generally affects horses between the ages of 12 – 36 months and is characterised by the narrowing of the cervical canal, resulting in compression of the spinal cord.

The exact cause of Wobbler syndrome is unknown. However, there are several factors which may predispose a young horse to the condition, including: Genetic predisposition, physical trauma to the neck as well as Nutritional imbalances and over-nutrition, especially in young rapid growing horses. In many cases, young foals can exhibit incoordination and clumsy movement. They are often unable to learn to trot and spend most of their time walking or cantering which requires less balanced and precise movement. Diagnosis of Wobbler syndrome generally

requires quality radiographs of the upper and mid cervical region of the neck, as well as other physical testing. Simple tests include pulling the tail to one side – affected foals are unable to quickly recover and have difficulty regaining posture. They often stand with their front legs spaced wide apart to brace themselves when feeding and have difficulty in remaining steady on their limbs when eating from a feed bin.

Horses suffering from Wobbler syndrome can be treated in a few different ways, including drug therapy, surgery and aggressive management. Consult your vet for advice. Where a young horse is growing too rapidly or is showing signs of fetlock phytitis or knee/hock epiphysitis between weaning and yearling age, then a reduced energy diet, confinement and provision of a balanced calcium, trace-mineral and vitamin supplement such as Kohnke’s Own Cell-Grow is recommended. Kohnke’s Own also offer a free and unbiased ration analysis service to check the diet of your young, growing horse as well as all other horses. Email [info@kohnkesown.com](mailto:info@kohnkesown.com) for your free ration analysis, or to receive a copy of Dr. John Kohnke’s Equine Wobbler Syndrome fact sheet.

## 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.

## PONY CLUBBERS GALORE! Continued.

The children really enjoyed themselves and so did the parents who came across the site to watch, with some asking for rides. The day was a great success with at least two mothers proclaiming their intention to find a pony, vehicle and harness and “get into it”. One has lined up the opportunity to backstep while she gets started.

For hand-outs, the Federal and NSW Secretaries supplied about 70 back copies of the ACDS Journal and a couple of bundles of ACDS brochures. Lyn Callaghan produced a hundred colour flyers consisting of reproductions of a Journal inside back cover illustrating juniors in

carriage driving on one side and on the reverse the Journal inside back facing page which listed all the ACDS Clubs’ details. The nine pony clubs in Zone 10 are: Berrima District, Bundanoon, Cobbitty, Loop Line, Moss Vale, Robertson, Rossmore, The Oaks and Wollondilly.

This promotion is an excellent format for ACDS clubs to show off our sport and bring in new members. We are grateful to the drivers who gave up their day and travelled hundreds of kilometres to make this event such a success. So, many thanks to: Tracey Ellis (Louie), Faye Cairncross (Buckeroo), Belinda Casper (Indi), Greg MacDonald (Glencoe Fingal), Lyn Callaghan (Shep-

herds Hill Dennis), Brayden Sonter (Champ), Graham Brown (Jimmy & Trevor), Carol and Ray Roach (Bandit & Nugget) and Tony James (George III). Most drivers wore their marathon colours. Thanks also to Southern Highlands Club and John Wood for providing the equipment and helping out on the day.

The children’s excitement carried through to lunch in the dining room where there was a much increased noise level as tales were told of their thrilling rides on the “speeding carriages”. So, it seems we were a big success and we have been asked back again next year!

*Tony James*



# CLUB NEWS from VICTORIA

## Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club Inc

CARRIAGE Horse Driving Trials Club members have been out and about enjoying their equine partners, and members have been travelling to compete at CDE events both in Victoria and NSW, enjoying great success with young ponies and new combinations. Three of our members competed at the Victorian CDE Championships, what a contrast of weather conditions the weather gods threw at us. The grounds looked great when we arrived, only to have strong winds turn the dressage arena and cones course into a battle zone, but with helping hands on Saturday morning the courses were returned to a driveable state.

Congratulations to everyone who competed, Alice Austin placing 2nd in the Large Novice Pony class with Alvon Gypsy Spirit, Merryn Byers placing 3rd with Peppertree Hill Ark Royal, aka Arkie also won the Best Performance for a Novice Pony in the Marathon. Merryn competed in the Level 4 event, driving Casuarina Ridge Rockstar to 1st place in the Novice Pony section and Belinda Drury placed a credible 4th with her new pony Rouken Glen Rusty.

Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club were notified that they had been nominated for the Cobram Barooga Courier Sport Star of the Year Award in the Event of the Year Section, this nomination was in recognition of us hosting the 2018 Victorian CDE Championships. We were thrilled to make the top 5 in this section.

Our club has had a busy few months and with more club days and informal training type events planned we are focusing on helping our new members and juniors get started. At our raining weekend we had over 30 tests driven with nine new drivers having their first attempt, including four juniors. A fantastic time had by everyone.

Our Come & Try component was well received with many interested people asking lots of questions regarding carriage driving.

Several of our members have also been out riding their horses, competing at local hunt training events, plus trail riding in the mountains.

Keep up the good work everyone, enjoy the cooler weather and have fun.

*Merryn Byers*

## Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club

IN FEBRUARY the club held a Graded dressage day which was well attended. The first day the weather was awful but improved on the Sunday, as did the horses and ponies. The evening was a dinner with Trivia and a silent auction. Mia Jones drove her first dressage test as a Junior and was presented a sash for competing, by Peter Lee.

In March, some members had a pleasure drive from Toongabbie to the Glengarry Pub where they had lunch and then continued on home. The weather was perfect!

Its been very dry here and we are looking forward to some much needed rain and grass on the ground.

*Leanne Prosser*

## Geelong and District Carriage Drivers

FEBRUARY 23 & 24 L3/4 CDE at Inverleigh. Great entries with 33 competitors at this self-stewarding event. Plenty of members helped at several working bees, the set up and the pull down. These big events take a big effort from members. Thank you to all members, drivers, officials, and helpers and volunteers who ensured that this event ran smoothly.

MARCH 24 - Come and Try Day. Upon arrival and registration more than 30 enthusiasts, from near and far, were welcomed to the morning or afternoon sessions for a GDCCD Club review and then an introduction to all aspects of Carriage Driving by viewing a collation of videos in a PowerPoint presentation. The GDCCD Information Booklets produced by Kirsty Blake and Nicole Linic were handed out, followed by a discussion including helmets, Medical Information Bands, safety information and a display of typical driving bits and their uses.

Noted carriage drivers Rodney Lane and Elsa Avery then led the way discussing the carriages that were on display - from the basic entry level 'first cart' or jogger and pleasure vehicles, to CDE 4 wheelers, and a show Viceroy - giving potential newcomers a broad understanding of where their journey into carriage driving may lead.

Chocolate the Pony, was centre stage for our 'Harnessing & Putting to Demonstration' with Rodney and Elsa taking the groups through all the basics. Their knowledge was invaluable in answering all newcomer's questions.

Nicole Linic with Choccy, Pat Streef Kirk with Serena the donkey, and Christa Jones with Duke were the 'Hands On - Have a Drive' mentors, almost every newcomer opting to have one or more drives under the guidance of the member seated beside them. Juniors had a drive of all three, and a few people may even have a harness donkey on their wish list now!

Newcomers received an ACDS Journal, a GDCCD Information Booklet, a wealth of information on the sport, knowledge of different carriages, how to harness up, and a HUGE SMILE after having their first drive.

MARCH 30th & 31st - At the 2019 Victorian Combined Driving Championships held at Greenvale, GDCCD member Colin Matheson worked on the cones course as part of his Cones Judge Accreditation requirements.

Congratulations, each winning their respective class, to GDCCD family members Liz Lawrence driving her pony four-in-hand, Ruby Lawrence driving an intermediate big pony, and Ned Andrew driving his intermediate small pony.

APRIL 28 - TPR Course and Refresher - Nicole Linic presented the GDCCD TPR clinic to 15 new or refreshing stewards. Thank you to Golden Plains Equine Vet Clinic and to Alex Pearce for being our officiating vet.

## Coming up at GDCCD

Keep an eye on GDCCD's Facebook page for the latest information on events and rallies.

MAY 26 - Oz Trec at Inverleigh. Every second year club member Maree Yates conducts this popular event, always lots of laughs, bright hivi colours and plenty of challenges for horses and their drivers with a Navigation drive and Oz Trec activities.

JULY 28 - GDCCD AGM and Xmas-in-July (horse free) rally at Inverleigh Hotel

AUGUST 17 & 18 Indoor Qualifier weekend at Inverleigh.

*Madeline Bentley*

## Oaklands Horse and Carriage Driving Club

CLUB MEMBERS have been busy over the past few months competing, officiating or supporting various driving activities.

A number of members competed at the Geelong and District Club CDE at Inverleigh in late February 2019 with good results.

At the Victorian CDE Championships held at Greenvale in late March 2019, a number of Oaklands members supported Vic Branch by taking on several officials' positions, whilst a number of other members competed once again with good results.

Several Oaklands members were involved in officiating at Dwellingup at the National CDE Championships. A special mention should be made of the work done by Karen and Mark Rogers who made the journey to WA and painted numerous obstacles and generally helped with all aspects of the event. An Oaklands composite team of Phil Marshall, Lorraine Cairns and David Cockcroft won the Club trophy at the Nationals.

Oaklands will be running an Indoor Qualifier on 25 August 2019 and a weekend of Graded Driven Dressage on 28 and 29 September 2019.

Oaklands also plan to run a TPR Clinic probably in early September 2019.

*Cheryl Dowling*

## Pyrenees Ranges Pleasure Drivers

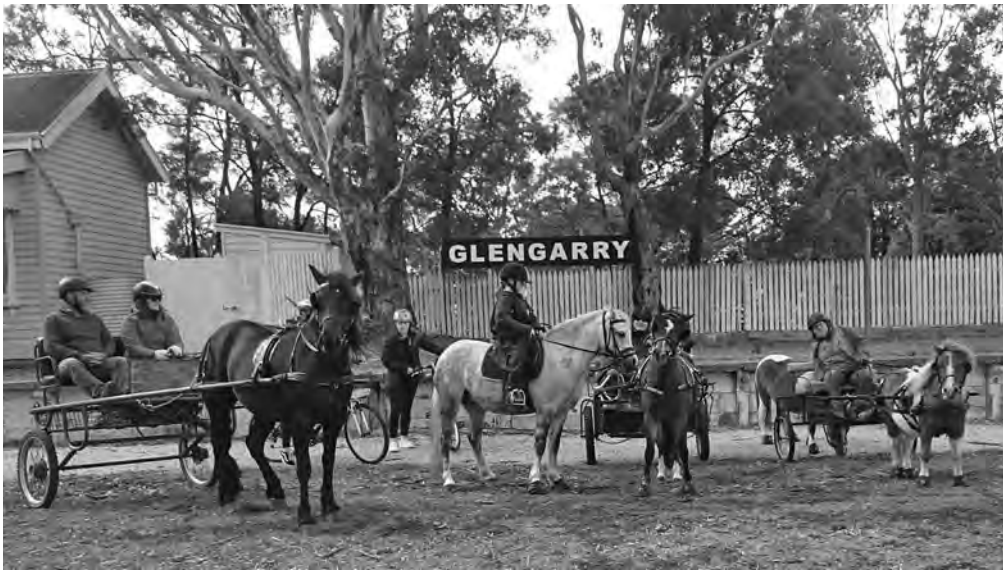
PYRENEES RANGE Pleasure Drivers members are getting busy to run their first major event at the Elmhurst Recreation Reserve Green Street Elmhurst. A two day Driven Dressage Qualifier!

The Recreation Reserve Committee of Management have been up grading their grounds so they are equine friendly. The facilities at the Rec Reserve are second to none, with a great kitchen, new clean showers and toilets, 12 new steel yards, water and a fenced secure equestrian ground.

There are 185 residents in the town including 10 ACDS members. The safe, sandy roads and tracks are very conducive to Carriage Driving.

The town residents are keen to see an event being run at their grounds. The local Church ladies have offered to do the catering for the weekend. The lovely 85 year old Irene Ramsey has offered to grow some Geraniums for the Dressage arena. We also have a local lady helping with the scoring.





*Above: Eastern Vic members enjoying a drive at Glengarry. Above right: Hard working club members at Eastern Victoria's Driven Dressage Day.*



*Southern Cross Harness Club: Above left: Jane Reid with Amalie and Jackson Tiller - Hafflinger Storm Boy - and dogs Sooty and Kaiser. SCHC - Tarra Parade Easter Saturday - Fiona Mottram driving donkey Tambo with mule Daisy behind - Photo: Wayne Robinson. Four carts SCHC Group on 90 Mile Beach.*





We are asking, no, we are begging you to come and make this a successful event and to see what we have here. The club is happy and keen to make this a success. If the grounds stand up, then we would like to run a Championship in the future.

Ararat City Council is also helping with a grant for a first time event to bring people into the Pyrenees region. Elmhurst is surrounded by hills and mountains, vineyards and wineries.

Elmhurst is between Ararat and Avoca, two hours from Melbourne, two hours from Geelong, one and a half hours from Bendigo, and I believe the closest Victorian Club from SA. Koonoomoo is just over three hours away.

*Margie Bowen*

### **Southern Cross Harness Club**

**S**OUTHERN CROSS Harness Club has continued to hold weekend camps. Some members are not able to camp overnight or attend both days for family reasons, but we welcome them for whatever time they can manage.

After a terrific drive along the 90-Mile at Woodside Beach, our January camp ran a mini marathon, cones course and obstacles across the neighbouring properties of two members at Carrajung South on the Australia Day weekend. This was followed by a bush drive on the Monday holiday. By making class divisions, we managed for everyone to win. (No prizes). We had six drivers using four horses/ponies and one mule between them. Two bridges, a tight set of real stockyards and natural hillside embankments created authentic challenges. Extra bodies helped with judging, stewarding, applauding and consuming food. It was a very supportive, educational and fun weekend.

In February we camped within sight and scent of the recently extinguished bushfire at Rosedale South. Saturday was so hot we didn't emerge from the shade for a drive until the evening, which was very pleasant and kinder for the equines. Three vehicles with passengers completed a 10km circuit. On the 18km Sunday drive, four vehicles went out. Our novice adult driver Steve Tiller drove Diesel using two sets of reins with Jane Reid on board handling the second pair of reins.

For March, we started at Woodside but travelled 18km to Carrajung South for our Saturday camp. Using floats we returned to White Woman's Waterhole at Woodside for the Sunday drive. We encountered a mix of bush and farmland, flat country, narrow valleys and long hill climbs, bitumen, dirt roads and twisting riding tracks. Two horses, a donkey and a mule took the Saturday drive. On the Sunday an extra horse joined the outing. With the weather a tad cooler, the equines were in good spirits and we did lots of trotting on sandy tracks. We startled several wallabies and kangaroos.

On Easter Saturday two harness vehicles participated in Yarram's annual Tarra Parade. There were large crowds on both sides of the street and along the central median. Robyn Jones' Friesian-x Bella (pulling a lorry full of members) and Fiona Mottram's donkey Tambo (with three dogs under the seat) had to contend

with bagpipe and rock bands, a large contingent of classic cars, parade floats, an ex-army tank and several pennyfarthing riders. The equines did very well in challenging conditions but seemed relieved when we departed. Fiona urged the crowd to 'Donkey Vote for Peace and Love' (Peace and Love was this year's parade theme) at the coming election. Causing even more laughter, she alternatively invited spectators to 'Kiss My Ass' while pointing at Tambo. On Easter Sunday four vehicles drove from Robyn Jones' home at Devon North to Mays Bush and back. We were amazed not to encounter any trail bikes on holidays, and had a beaut time exploring a bush area that we haven't visited for at least 10 years and which has regrown densely since the Black Saturday fires. The weather was mild and we travelled briskly with lots of chat happening between the carts.

Fiona Mottram was delighted with Daisy's success at the Donkey Society of Victoria Championship Show on Palm Sunday. Daisy beat four other mules (including ridden) to take out Champion Performance Mule. Her long-rein dressage, harness classes, obstacle course classes and standing jump placings resulted in her more than doubling the points of the Reserve. Daisy was also sashed as Reserve Champion Led Mule. Donkey Keysoe Tambo did his best effort in a range of classes and that was also very satisfying, given his strength is going out and about, rather than show performance.

*Fiona Mottram*

### **Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society**

**G**IPPSLAND Pleasure Harness Society members have been busy attending various Ag shows with success. Our Club President Ted Bradley competed at the Dandenong Show in November with Clydesdale Yulong Maarten (Marty) winning the Tradesmen and Business Turnout class and went on to win Champion Tradesman Turn out in his 1885 fully restored Spring Cart. Ted went as a Produce Store delivery man with bags of chaff loaded on the vehicle, he also won the long rein cones competition. The Judge on this beautiful sunny day for the Heavy Horse Section was Scott Goodall, the judge was presented with four very well presented horses and turnouts.

At the Bunyip Ag show, Natalie O'Connor drove the lovely Lambrook Park Synod, owned by Thelma Coster, to win Champion Non-Hackney. The delightful Colvadale Masterclass driven by Melanie Mantel won the Shetland driven in harness class.

With winter approaching, members will get together for rallies and hope to run a driven dressage day later in the year.

*Janice Gorick*

### **Central Highlands Pleasure Harness Club**

**C**HPHC HOSTED THE ACDS Dressage Qualifier in early March. Well, it wasn't the easiest event to organise and run, hats off to event organiser Hilary Billett for keeping it cool given the hot weather. The weekend before the event the exec committee met to discuss our options, given the forecast of temperatures well

above our 35C heat policy. We evaluated several options, and decided to begin the competition at 7:30 am, in order to avoid driving in the hottest part of the afternoon. The competitors took it in stride, and kudos to Madeleine Bentley for squinting into the sun to judge at 'C'. Saturday evening, many of the competitors scrubbed up to have tea at the Botanical Hotel in White Hills. Sunday started early again, and we hit 35C at the last of the drives! CHPHC would like to thank the judges and competitors for being flexible about the schedule, and we hope to see them again for our next qualifier.

Later in March, two of our members competed at the Victorian Championships and Level 4 CDE at Greenvale. Prue McKechnie came away with 1st Novice Pony 91cm and under 121cm, and Jan Moore took 1st VSE with her pair in the Level 4 CDE. In April, the club hosted lessons with Phil Marshall. With the arrival of cooler autumn weather, members have been enjoying pleasure drives at rallies.

*Eileen Perry*

### **Dressage Championships Report**

**T**HIRTY Competitors came together at Longwood Recreational Reserve on 24th March for the Victorian Driven Dressage Championships sponsored By Skye Park Equine Tailors. Every Competitor drove their best tests possible in front of our six Dressage Judges, Ms Nola Robertson, Ms Cheryl Drummond, Ms Liz Hammond, Ms Margie Morgan, Ms Madelaine Bentley and Ms Debra Fuller. Competitors had the choice to do a cones round under the expert eye of Mr Andrew Pollock.

Results as follows: Champion Novice Single - Rachel Haslau, Haddon Park Locket, Reserve-Cheryl Seddan, Little Plains Phillipa. Champion Novice Multiple - Kim Damsma- Mosman Park Vienna Woods & Mosman Park Fairytale, Reserve - Ross Carbery, Carbery Estate Valentino & Carbery Estate Ferrero. Champion Preliminary Single - Jodie McKeon, Rowdy. Reserve - Dawn Walters, Naringalook Monty. Champion Preliminary Multiple - Mandy Lawrence, Ambleside Lochindaal & Forge Farm Heathcliff. Reserve - Rhiannon Damsma - Cricket & Mosman Park Sugar Plum. Champion Elementary Single - Margeret Sperrin, Mosman Park Mickey Mouse. Reserve - Pam Salter, Dalgangle Horatio. Champion Advanced Multiple - Rachel Haslau - Elargee Trevi & Pemberton Chit Chat. Champion Intermediate Single - Vicki Stevens, Naringalook Tim Tam. Reserve - Tracy Tuohy, Lorabella Harmony. Champion Open Single - Bernadette Lewis, Astro Star.

*Alexander McGuire*

*Photos: Thanks to Andy Schwarcz. Clockwise from top right:*

*Mosman Park Vienna Woods and Mosman Park Fairytale Driver Kim Damsma.*

*Hasloch Park Icky-Sticky Bee Driver Graham Martin.*

*Mosman Park Mickey Mouse Driver Margaret Sperrin.*

*Naringalook Tim Tam Driver Vicki Stevenson.*

*Forge Farm Heathcliff and Ambleside Lochindaal Driver Mandy Lawrence.*





*Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society members: Above: Left: At Dandenong Show, Ted Bradley and Yulong Maarten. Right: At Bunyip Show, Natalie O'Connor driving Lambrook Park Synod.*





# 2019 Skye Park Equine Tailors VICTORIAN CDE CHAMPIONSHIPS

THE VICTORIAN BRANCH conducted the 2019 Skye Park Tailors Victorian CDE Championships at Greenvale Equestrian Reserve on the last weekend of March 2019. This was the first time in many years that it was run as a two-day competition as the traditional long weekend in March was not available.

With the assistance of the Hume Council and the other user groups at Greenvale, the Greenvale Equestrian Reserve has been developed over the past 10 years into a facility that users of the grounds can be proud of. Further developments are earmarked over the next nine months including a new pavilion.

The weather over the weekend was ideal for driving and under the watchful eye of Dot Willcoxson (POJ), Liz Hammond, Gwenifer Hack, Bruce Hammond and TD Trevor Brand, the event ran smoothly. Peter Harkness as Course Designer along with Phil Marshall, with a team of assistants turned out a challenging course for both the Cones and Marathon, including a new water obstacle. The Organising committee consisting of Tom

Dowling (Event Director), Cheryl Dowling (Event Secretary), Tracey Tuohy (Entry Secretary), Lorraine Cairns, Belinda Drury, Peter Harkness, Phil Marshall and Margie Morgan formed a cohesive working group and ensured the event ran smoothly.

It was great to see a number of competitors from New South Wales make the journey for the first time and some walked away having had a very successful weekend. The 2020 National CDE Championships will be at Greenvale at Easter 2020 and hopefully the feedback from those members who travelled from NSW will see many more members enter the Nationals next year.

A special thank you from the Organising Committee and competitors to Di Boardman our major sponsor from Skye Park Equine Tailors for once again providing quality prizes for the overall winners and place getters. Also, to the following Victorian Clubs – Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club, Central Highlands Pleasure Harness Club, Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club, Geelong & District Carriage Driving Club, Gippsland Pleas-

ure Harness Society, Mornington Peninsula Pleasure Harness Club, Oaklands Horse & Carriage Driving Club, and Pioneer Country Carriage Drivers, who generously supported VB with sponsorship.

It was also pleasing to see the number of volunteers who gave their time and added to the success of this event with Hilary Billett and Bruna Niblett both from Central Highlands taking on the 'catering-side' of the weekend and doing a fantastic job and to the stewards on marathon day – the list was basically completed before the event had commenced.

Results:

Novice Pony 91cm & under 121cm – 1st Prue McKechnie, 2nd Tracey Tuohy.

Novice Pony 121cm ne 149cm – 1st Peter Dunn, 2nd Alice Austin, 3rd Meryn Byers

Novice Horse over 149cm – 1st Andrew Pollock.

Intermediate Pony – 91cm and under 121cm - 1st Ned Andrew, 2nd Vicki Stevenson, 3rd Graham Martin.

## Victorian Show Driving Championships

SATURDAY THE 24th of March saw the dedicated Victorian and New South Wales Show Drivers diverge into Longwood Recreational Reserve for the Skye Park Victorian Show Driving Championships.

We had every size from 7.3hh miniature pony through to a 17.3hh pair of Percherons. All together 31 exhibitors put themselves and their horses best foot forward in front of our experienced NSW judges Ms Nola Robertson and Ms Cheryl Drummond. Nola and Cheryl together judged the turnouts using the point system awarding Champion Turnout to Ian Scarborough driving the stunning Pair of Percherons Carbery Estate Uptown and Carbery Estate Uncle Tom.

Reserve Champion went to Dianne Boardman's Welsh Pony Simeon Saute.

Judges split into two rings to judge all the exhibits put before them. Results as follows Champion Delivery: D. Stewart- Jeanel Baron Reserve Champion - D Stewart, Grace Dale Ballender. Champion Horse Over 14hh - Gwenifer Hack, On Track Park Millie. Reserve Champion - Andrea Stringer/Gavin Robson, Alecia Valiente. Champion CDE Horse or Pony - Michelle Jones, Lucy. Reserve Champion - Rachel Haslau, Locket. Champion Hackney Horse - Michelle Jones, Lucy. Champion Hackney Pony - Margie Bowen, Roblea Harriet. Champion Pony ne 10.2hh - Cheryl Seddan, Little Plains Phillipa.

Reserve Champion - Margie Bowen, Roblea Choirboy. Champion Pony 10.2hh ne 14hh - Rachel Haslau, Locket. Reserve Champion - Diane Boardman, Simeon Saute. Champion Pleasure Pony or Horse - Yvonne Brown, Sherbet Lemon. Reserve Champion - Gwenifer Hack, On Track Park Millie. Supreme Exhibit went to Rachel Haslau driving Locket, Concourse d'Elegance - Ian Scarborough, Carbery Estate Uptown and Carbery Estate Uncle Tom. Best dressed handler - Mark Goodwin.

Every Champion and Reserve Champion received fantastic prizes donated by our major sponsor Skye Park Equine Tailors.

Alexander McGuire Vic Show Driving Convenor

*Ian Scarborough driving R & M Carbery's Carbery Estate Uptown and Carbery Estate Uncle Tom winners of the Concourse d'Elegance Award*







Above: Left: Bridie White driving Portia Benay being sashed by Nola Robertson. Right: Gwenifer Hack Driving On Track Park Millie Champion horse over 14hh. Photos: Andy Schwarcz.



Above: Desiree Stewart's delivery entries Jeanal Baron and Gracedale Balladier driven here by Hilary Billet. Below: Esther Goodwin driving Ripple Brook Flirt. Photos, including opposite page: Andy Schwarcz.





# CLUB NEWS from WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## CONES TRAINING - February 10th.

**W**OW well what a weekend! What was a little training idea, turned into 17 drivers and super eager horses/ponies ready for some excellent cone driving.

This was my first time looking after any type of event, and what a lovely event it was. On Saturday I met up at the club with Sandy and Peter Harkness to build the cones course, I knew I would have to have some course design ideas, but I didn't realise Peter was going to hand me the reins (no pun intended), and let me build the whole course. His wise words, 'Design a course that you would showjump', well this didn't help me much at this point because I like to showjump in straight lines!

So, I knew I wanted a twisty course, I wanted to test the driver's skill and make them plan and drive their lines. I picked up the first pile of cones and headed off to the arena. Positioning

the judges and start line in the shade, I placed the first cone far to close to the start line but hey, this is all about learning! Then cone number 2 was placed on a nice sharp turn, I placed number 3 on a slightly off-center line and then the rest of the course was in my head ready to place.

Once I placed the last pair of cones, Peter walked through the entire course with me, we corrected the distances, Peter tweaked a few different cone positions, he added a line that really made you think (Cone 3 to 4), he also told me about adding a circle between un-related lines to achieve the correct distances. He is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to CDE Driving and Cones Course design. I learnt a few things and will remember them for next time.

Sunday morning, the plan was in motion. The 138cm wheel distances went first, followed by the 125cm wheel distances. We had fast and furi-

ous rounds, we had slow and steady rounds, but ultimately it was Deb Madsen who navigated the course to perfection. Deb had the only double clear round of the day! What an achievement. Congratulations Deb!

After the training round, we all had a go at Carousel Cones! We all paired up and worked as a team to get through the course. Steve driving Dylan and Janet driving Matey showed everyone how this was done by having the least penalties and taking the win, well done guys!

It was lovely to see new drivers and familiar faces, everyone was so lovely and helpful all day. I had lots of fun. Onwards and upwards to the next show date! I already have ideas in mind!! Thank you everyone for joining in and having a go. We all did so well.

*Sophie Pope*

*Sophie Pope - Wendamar Nixon. Photos: Amanda Igoe.*



*Kathy Miles - Abinitio.*



*Jan Tillbrook - Majada Park Jewels*



*Margaret Dart - Golden Park Golden Girl.*



### **MURRAY CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB Level 3 CDE 2nd – 4th March 2019.**

**A** VERY BUSY long weekend was had at the Dwellingup club grounds with 37 competitors coming from far and wide for the level 4 CDE held over the Saturday and Sunday and then a separate practice run through extra MOS on the Monday.

With so many drivers either trying to qualify or practicing for the CDE Nationals to be held in

April 2019 at Dwellingup there was never a dull moment with lots of great times through the cones and marathon sections and superb dressage being driven.

Special thanks to the eastern states judges who worked tirelessly all weekend and all the many helpers it takes to run these events.

With all the work that has been done by Athol and his ground crew and the many busybees that have been held the grounds are looking great.

Roll on Easter we are all looking forward to doing our best with some great competition at the CDE Nationals.

*Ginnie James*

### **Murray Districts Level 4 CDE**

IN CONJUNCTION with the 2019 Alcoa Australian CDE Championships, Murray Districts Club also ran a Level 4 CDE; three drivers took the opportunity to compete.





Above: Left: Virginia James - Toby. Centre: Jane Johns - Summertime Pearl. Right: Rose Carr - Kimba Krisp.



Above: Left: Wendy Oversby - Canterbury Ironman. Centre: Sherone Claton - Silverbrook Morgwyn. Right: Dennis Wise - Ridgeway.

Murray Districts Level 4 CDE

Photos by Eddie Srblin

David Rondo and Koenrad of Oakside.



Tracey Hunter with Keeny Park Moonlight Shadow.



Glenda Stow driving Foxglove Viking and Foxglove Tarquin.



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#### Murray Districts Carriage Driving Club

Vicki Lee  
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#### West Australian Harness Driving Society

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## ACDS Junior Drivers ... our future ...

North Coast Club St Valentines Day activity at Megan: Left: Rowena Walker with junior Layla Connell driving and Makayla Connell awaiting her turn; Below: Junior Tully Naylor driving with mum Heidi and Layla Connell supervising. Photos: R Connell.



Above: Bungendore juniors Harry McIntyre, Zoe Collier and Bailey Jane Hass with Bram Chardon. Photo: D Wilcoxson.  
Left: In South Australia, Charlotte driving her new pony Huey in Dressage. Photo: Kangra.  
Below: Junior driver Jeanna Kinleyside at the Blayney Show with Chocolate. Photo: C Kinleyside.







The Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc  
is proud to host the

# 20<sup>th</sup> International WELSH SHOW



23rd & 24th November 2019  
Sydney International Equestrian Centre



Rachel Haslau driving Di Boardman's Section B mare Haddon Park Locket for Skye Park Supreme Champion Horse or Pony at the Victorian Show Driving Championships. Photo: Andy Schwarcz.

## HARNESS CLASSES. No qualifications required.

Judges: Ad Beekman (Lintelo Stud, Netherlands) Max Pearce (Beauwood Stud, AUS)

2 or 4 wheel vehicle Turnout (Welsh and Part Welsh eligible, single or multiple driven)

Multiple Driven Welsh or Part Welsh

Single Driven Section A Stallion/Mare/Gelding

Single Driven Section B Stallion/Mare/Gelding

Single Driven Section C Stallion/Mare/Gelding

Single Driven Section D Stallion/Mare/Gelding

Single Driven Part Welsh Stallion/Mare/Gelding over 12.2hh up to & inc 13.2hh

Single Driven Part Welsh Stallion/Mare/Gelding over 13.2hh

INTERNATIONAL Champion & Reserve Champion DRIVEN PART WELSH

INTERNATIONAL Champion & Reserve Champion DRIVEN WELSH

**A prestigious, once in a lifetime event to be held as part of the 50 years,  
Golden Jubilee celebrations of the WP&CS Australia**