
CLUB POSTAL ADDRESS

PO Box 394 Pantom Hill 3759

WEBSITE

www.workingequitationyarravalley.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President – Andrew Feher

feher.andrew@gmail.com

Vice President - Helen Sharp

Newsletter – Helen Sharp

helenisharp@bigpond.com

Secretary – Susie Walker

walker.susieg@gmail.com

Treasurer – Kerry Pitcher

kerry.pitcher@gmail.com

Rallies – Lisa Saunders

lisaandian@bigpond.com.au

Instructors & Venues/

WEV Representative – Anna Gust

annagust37@hotmail.com

Uniforms – Julia Colman

Maintenance - Julia Colman

colmanj@southernphone.com.au

Fundraising – Fay Diamantakis

Risk M'ment – Fay Diamantakis

fdiamantakis@optusnet.com.au

Fundraising – Carola Sahler

carolasahler@optusnet.com.au

Events – Lindy Whitfort

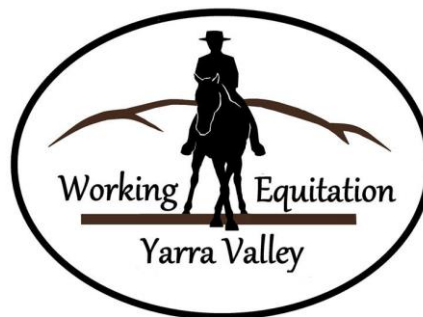
lindy.whitfort@bigpond.com

Melrose Farm – Karen Gillings

karenjgillings@gmail.com

Grants – Catherine Bateman

mscbateman@gmail.com



JUNE 2015

Hello from Helen

Welcome everyone to the June edition of the Working Equitation Yarra Valley newsletter. As you can see the format of this edition is completely different to the previous ones done by Liane.

Unfortunately she had to relinquish the job due to other commitments so I have volunteered to take over the role from her. I'm not as IT savvy as Liane is and even though she has given me all the details and templates of previous newsletters I'm still struggling to digest it all so rather than miss my intended deadline I thought I'd go back to what I know otherwise the next newsletter wouldn't be out til Christmas time!

A big thank you to Liane for all her efforts in the past 12 months or so in getting the info out to our members.

Also we should remember that WEYV was a new venture 18 months ago, and in its early stages. Things were still finding their place in life so hats off to all involved in getting our club to where it is today.

A reminder too that the club has a wonderful website (www.workingequitationyarravalley.org) which hosts a wealth of information regarding the club, also see us on Facebook (Working Equitation Yarra Valley)

President's Postscript

Hello everyone, and thank you Helen for stepping in here with such a newsy and full edition for your first one. Whilst on the subject of 'takeovers'! We have had a couple of other changes on the committee due to personal circumstances. Amanda Bibby has had to step down from her role as Venue/Instructor co-ordinator. She has done all the hard work for the rest of the year and arranged rally dates and venues and most instructors. Anna Gust has kindly offered to continue this work and we look forward to hearing about her investigations for other instructors so that Susie may be able to have some time in the saddle as well.

Our other 'takeover' is from Denise McKay as uniform co-ordinator and we thank Julia Coleman for 'volunteering' to continue Denise's good work in the uniform department. Watch this space for new and upcoming ideas to add to our already smart outfits.

Thank you Liane, Amanda and Denise for your part in making this club a truly great one.

The next Committee meeting is on **Tuesday 23rd June** at the Yarra Glen Grand Hotel starting at 6:30 pm. Members are welcome to put forward agenda items. Email me on feher.andrew@gmail.com with your ideas or suggestions.

New member's welcome (Members total 46)

Welcome to our newest members as at time of writing - Reanna Clayton, Chloe Hamston and Bronwyn Farrar.

WE Open competition (unofficial) on Sunday 25th October.

Lindy Whitfort has kindly agreed to plan and co-ordinate the proceedings on that day (BIG Thanks Lindy!!) You would have received an email from Lindy already about this competition. I ask all members to please support Lindy and let her know that you can volunteer your skills and help in some way in the lead up organisation, or on the day.

Please don't leave it to the same group to always volunteer and run our events. We need you all!

Some highlights about this competition;

- This is our first go at running all 3 phases in one day - Dressage, Obstacles Style and Obstacles Timed (speed).
- The competition will be limited to about 25 - 30 in order for us to get each rider through each phase.
- There will be 3 levels in each phase - Introductory, Preliminary and Debutant.
- For more information we have attached an extract from the WEGBI rules later in this newsletter to help you decide which level you would like to enter.
- For dressage tests, score sheets, and sample course maps see the WEGBI website: <http://www.wegbi.com.au/rule-book.html>
- Please contact Susie if you have any questions about the rules or tests
- We hope you will take this opportunity to enter on the day.

WEYV Member Profiles... a new feature for our Newsletter

We are asking members to put together a short "Bio" to share with club members and get to know each other. Just a few words with some pictures of you and your horsey activities. This month, we start with our committee, let's share who we are.

Calendar of Events

For all club events check the calendar on our website - and for messages, comments and feedback see our Facebook page. Please also note that during the winter, we have changed some Rallies dates from Saturday to a Sunday. Our Rallies in May at Melrose Farm were well attended and thankfully the weather was kind to us. As a bit of insurance for the wetter/winter months we have booked Maurice Rd Gruyere indoor for June, July & Aug.

Clinics

We held a Clinic on "The Rider's Position" at Warramate Park that was also well attended. See Lindy's report later in the newsletter. Our next Open Clinic is scheduled for Saturday 20th June. This one is a "Classical Dressage - Lightness Clinic" with Susie at Gruyere indoor.

NEXT RALLY/CLINIC DATES- at Indoor arena, Maurice Rd, Gruyere

- **Wednesday June 10th Rally** with Susie Walker
- **Sunday June 14th Rally** with Susie Walker and Sarah Nickels
- **Saturday June 20th Lightness Clinic** (*Classical Dressage*) with Susie Walker

Anna has kindly organised to have Steve Miller from AKA saddlery to come to Gruyere indoor arena on **Sunday June 14th** which is the club rally day. This will be a great opportunity to view and try out some of his Zaldi saddles. They are suited for the Andalusian, Friesian and bigger barrelled horses – generally speaking. Even if you aren't in the market to buy – it never hurts to window shop! Thanks Anna for organising this.

WEA

The President of the World Association for Working Equitation (WAVE) visited Sydney in May and met with the three different Australian groups who aim to represent all WE clubs. These series of meetings resolved to unite these three different groups and form one body - Working Equitation Australia (WEA). Will keep you informed of developments.

Grant application

I mentioned in the last newsletter that Cath Bateman & Helen Sharp had put together an eye catching and meaningful application for a grant. Sad to say that we missed out on any funding in this round but Cath & Helen are renewing our application for the next round. Thanks Cath & Helen.

Until next time, *Andrew*

Secretary's Scribe

Susie provided us with Feedback on NSW WE and WAVE meeting

WAVE President met with the three Australian bodies claiming to represent Australian WE clubs and helped them to join forces and form a united committee (to be called WEA) with equal representation from all three factions. When this is finalised Australia will be recognised by WAVE.

There are already State bodies forming to unite individual WE clubs at the State level. When fully implemented WE club members will be eligible for National and World Competition. WE Vic is in the process of being incorporated with the following statement of purpose;

- 1. To promote and develop the discipline of Working Equitation throughout Victoria.***
- 2. To represent Victorian interests at a National level.***
- 3. To support and promote the development of Working Equitation clubs in Victoria.***
- 4. The education of participants in the rules and standards of Working Equitation under the auspices of the World Association of Working Equitation.***
- 5. To promote good horsemanship and good animal welfare within the sport of Working Equitation.***

Working Equitation in **AUSTRALIA UNITES**

At a recent meeting with the President of World Association of Working Equitation (WAVE); Mr Joao Duarte, it was unanimously decided to merge the 3 applicant organisations and form one united national body for Working Equitation in Australia.

WORKING EQUITATION **AUSTRALIA Inc.**

A steering committee consisting of 2 representatives from each entity has been formed and we're currently working through the details. This is an exciting time for working equitation and our goal is to sign the protocol with WAVE prior to end 2015.

STAY TUNED !



Treasurer's Takings

Kerry gave a good treasurer's report at the last committee meeting, basically saying that as a recently new club we are in a good position financially. Unfortunately the grant we applied for didn't come to fruition but Catherine is willing to try again and hopefully we will be successful 2nd time around. Apparently there were mega entries and only a select few were chosen.

COMPETITION DATE – SUNDAY OCTOBER 25TH

Lindy has started the onerous task of arranging our FIRST 3 phase competition, to be run at Adam Wootton's huge indoor arena, Yarra Junction on Sunday 25th October so mark this date in your diaries.

She has formed a subcommittee of 'volunteers' to help spread the various organisational tasks. We would like as many members as possible to be available to help on the day as it will be full on. We would also like our members to ride as well so give this some thought too. More details available later, as they come to hand.

Extract from the WEGBI Rules 1.4 on Levels Descriptions:

NEW LEVELS AND DIVISIONS Rulebook Version 1.6 (Feb. 2015)

LEVEL 0 INTRODUCTORY walk / trot - two hands

This level asks for the following gaits: walk, walk on long rein, trot, halt, and some lateral control to manoeuvre in the obstacles. The transitions upward and downward are progressive and the rider must use 2 hands throughout the competition.

Rider must win 3 consecutive competitions, scoring more than 58% in style and dressage phases to enter next level.

LEVEL 1 PRELIMINARY walk/trot/canter - two hands

This level asks for walk, walk on long rein, trot, canter, simple lead changes, halt from any gait, large and small circles, rein back, leg yield, during the obstacle phase and are expected to trot/canter between obstacles.

Rider must win 3 consecutive competitions, scoring more than 58% in style and dressage phases to enter next level.

LEVEL 2 DEBUTANTE W & F walk/trot/canter - two hands

Debutante W - walk through to change of lead. Debutante F is with Flying changes.

This level asks for walk, walk on long rein, trot, canter, counter canter, half pass, simple lead changes, halt from any gait, large and small circles, rein back, leg yield and turn on haunches during the obstacle phase. Riders are expected to canter between obstacles.

Debutante must perform for 2 years before advancing to the next level of Consagrados.

INTRODUCING*** "THE COMMITTEE"**

As we are a reasonably new club, and given the fact that we have 2 rallies every month and the Wednesday folk usually don't get to meet the Saturday/Sunday people, the Committee thought it would be a good idea if we all wrote a small paragraph or 2 to introduce

ourselves, and our horse, so that we may (or may not) be more recognisable to the rest of the members.

Ed note- Our esteemed President Andrew kindly sent in a brief doco of his life (past and present) for this section, along with some great photos but alas the file was so large that for most people it would take days to download! So the new updated and smaller version will be in the next edition, along with a few other submissions of the rest of the committee? (HINT, HINT)

Helen Sharp – Vice President and Newsletter person

I was your typical 'pester the parents for a horse' girl till finally they said "yes" as long as I paid for it myself! Their secret belief was that I'd give up and would only be wasting my own money but 40 years later the passion is still there. I worked after school/Sat mornings for Woolworths (this was in the mid 70's when shops closed at noon on Saturdays and Sunday trade was forbidden) to pay for my horses.

I was a late riding bloomer compared to the rest of the members when I joined Mountain District Pony Club then went through to various ARC's when the HRCav was first starting out, eventually becoming a member of Monbulk-Clematis for many years. At that time I was working for Westpac Bank.

Paul and I then moved to Gawler, SA and were there for 12 years before returning to Vic and the Yarra Valley. No HRCav over in SA so I turned to the local ATHRA club to enjoy my riding activities, meeting lots of great friends there and loving the trail riding bit. Coming back east with us in 2009 were my 2 big fur babies, Sunny – 16.2 chestnut Appy (now 21 and retired) and Dale – buckskin Appy, who is now 12 and my main riding partner. Both horses were/are experienced trail horses that can put their hooves to just about anything from street parades, jumping, dressage, trail riding, 'babysitting' nervous neddies and their riders, and of course just recently – WE. I now work for Woolies (again) in Seville, nice and close to home which enables me to ride most afternoons (in theory!)ha ha ha.

I follow Natural Horsemanship principles and came up through the Parelli program in SA, meeting my good friend, instructor and mentor Steve Halfpenny through that. My horses are barefoot and bitless and one day soon I hope to excel at WE.



Helen and Dale



Kerry and Cordy

Kerry Pitcher -Treasurer (with not-so-secret passion for Excel spreadsheets)

I resumed my horse obsession about 12 years ago, after it having lay dormant since my early teens. My first (completely ignorant) purchase was a QH/appy mare called Rosie, who was difficult, but very precious to me. I found Susie Walker on Horse Directory (I think it was) because I needed help. I think she recognised before I did that Rosie wasn't going to be easy, but she was very tactful and hid it well!

A few horses later, I now have my beloved Cordelia. Cordy is 16yo, Clydie X, ex hunter.....and is, I suspect, my 'horse of a lifetime'. I did more with Cordy in my first couple of months with her than I'd done with all previous horses put together. She is a constant delight and my only regret is that I never get to spend enough time with her. When I'm not dreaming about me and Cordy blitzing a Level 5 combined training comp or horse trial, my time is spent working (HR manager) or convincing my long-suffering Garry to do the poo patrol for me, or build me some cavaletti, or polish the roof of the float, or do all the washing while I go to play with Cordy.

Carola Sahler - Fundraising

Hi, my name is Carola. I grew up in Germany riding horses the 'traditional' English way (and I still feel like apologising to all of them!)

I never thought I'd be interested in pursuing training in dressage again, until I came across Legerete and Working Equitation.

The philosophy behind those methods of teaching horse and rider to come together in harmony and lightness is wonderful and makes total sense to me.

I hope to be able to pursue this path with my new equine partner "Heathcliff" as far as we want to go, and have lots of fun and meet many like-minded friends along the way.

When I'm not playing with my "Heathy", I coach at RDA Bundoora Park, work as a part-time cleaner to pay the bills or am at home with my 2 children and (long-suffering non-horsey) husband ;-)



Julia Colman – uniforms & maintenance

Hi, my name is Julia Colman and this is Chester. We live in the beautiful green hills of Mt Evelyn. Chester came into my life in February 2007 as a 5 year old with only very basic training. He was full on, always wanting to go forward very fast and would never walk anywhere!! He has been a real challenge to me as he was (and still tries it on) very dominant. Chester has made me explore different methods of training and riding and got me well away from my Pony Club experience!

I have always dreamt about that feeling of oneness with my horse but not known how to go about creating it. Now that I have found working equitation and Susie Walker that dream is starting to become tangible and I am so excited and more crazy about horses than I ever was as a young girl.

Looking forward to going on that journey with all of you in our lovely, friendly club in the Yarra Valley.



WEYV WINTER CALENDAR - UPCOMING EVENTS

We are now indoor at Gruyere right through the winter!

As usual we source great facilities and a wide range of activities for you, so toss off those winter woollies and join us for some fun training & riding.

Wed 10th June Club Rally

Sun 14th June Club Rally

Sat 20th June Club Clinic: Classical Dressage - Lightness

Wed 15th July Club Rally

Sat 18th July Club Rally

Wed 12th August Club Rally

Sat 15th August Club Rally

For info & bookings email Lisa Saunders at lisandian@bigpond.com

Book early: Close date for bookings & payment is 5 days prior to event.

WEYV Calendar: <http://www.workingequitationyarravalley.org/calendar.html>

TRAINING TIPS

Susie is writing a series of articles about introducing your horse to the obstacles, and the best way to approach and ride them. This is the first one – the bell corridor and rein-back. The rein-back is a prerequisite to training the side pass pole and the gate.

INTRODUCING YOUR HORSE TO THE OBSTACLES

1. BELL CORRIDOR & REIN-BACK

NOTE: Take the time it takes for your horse to stay relaxed through each part of each obstacle. Break everything down into small chunks where you can reward your horse for the smallest try. One step at a time.

The most common mistake in Working Equitation is rushing the horse. To ensure the safety of both you and your horse, we strongly recommend that all obstacles first be introduced gradually and gently in-hand and in a halter. These notes are for riding the obstacles.

ENTERING CORRIDOR

First ensure you have taught your horse to rein-back in-hand prior to entering the corridor under saddle. Also teach your horse to rein-back under saddle along a fence before asking for rein-back in the corridor

- Look up and straight ahead
- Give horses a long straight entry into the corridor
- Sit tall with relaxed hips and balanced equal weight on both seat bones
- Have an even & equal light guiding contact in both reins
- Legs dropped long and evenly weighted at the girth - not too much leg
- Breath out, sit upright for a calm halt where you can easily reach the bell
- Initially do not insist on a square halt - but aim to be straight & immobile
- Ask for immobility for 4 - 5 seconds.
- Avoid the horse stepping back before being asked
- Establish a balanced straight head and a 'poll high' halt - RELAX
- Keep the horse's nose in front of or on the vertical, its jaw relaxed softly 'tasting/mouthing the bit' not grinding, tilting or leaning on the hands
- Place both reins in one hand then ring bell
- First time in, ring the bell, praise the horse, and walk forward and out past the bell and into neck extension. (The bell is normally in the middle, but you can move it to the side to begin with.)

REIN-BACK... *the key is knowing what's easy for the horse.*

Before asking for rein-back, check the horse is not "on the forehand" ie not pulling or putting weight on your hands, or leaning over the front legs

Start a quarter or half way into the corridor so your horse only needs to take 3-4 steps in order to get out.

- First establish a straight, calm and balanced halt, and breath deeply.

- Rein-back is easiest for the horse when they lighten their forehand and shift their weight back to the haunches – so how can we help them?
- Ensure the horse's neck is naturally raised so the poll is the highest point and his back is not hollow# and he is balanced evenly over four legs.
- Sit upright with your shoulders slightly back, and gently slide both legs back about 6 inches behind the girth - as the cue to rein-back
- There is no need to push with the legs, just position them on the sides
- With equal contact in both reins, use small and short lifting actions of both hands (without letting your elbows come out of position) until the horse starts to think or lean backwards, and then down hands release, feet come back to normal position and praise immediately.
- Repeat for each backward step, releasing legs and hands quickly for each 'backward step' train progressively until you can take 3 – 4 steps in a row and give the horse a little brain break to think about it.
- If your horse is going wonky backwards ensure first that you are sitting upright and straight, your eyes up straight ahead, your balanced weight in both seat bones, both feet, and both hands.
- If still crooked - close the fingers around the reins more on the opposite rein to where he is falling out, and close the leg the side he is falling to. For example; if the quarters are veering left in rein-back, you ask for a little flexion right, and press gently with the left leg behind the girth. (Like backing a float – right hand to the right, turns the float left).

Common Problems:

Most problems with rein-back come from a lack of knowledge of the biomechanics of balance, therefore a lack of balance, and a lack of relaxation. Rein-back is easy for the horse if done with good balance and relaxation. But its not something to train for a long time. Train in small chunks, reward often, then do something else to keep relaxation.

- do not pull or drag the horse backwards
- do not ask the horse to come behind the vertical onto the forehand
- do not see-saw the reins / pull left-right for halts or rein-back
- do not lean backwards using your weight as a lever against the mouth
- do not push your feet forwards out of alignment with your hips
- pulling and leaning cause a horse to drag its feet back and on the fore
- do not allow the horse to brace or hollow its back in tension

#NOTE: Horses that tense and reverse the neck and easily hollow the back should first practice rein-back in-hand in a halter and in neck extension until relaxed and softening the neck and back while stepping back. With these horses, the rein-back should be done in neck extension with the nose forward and out, and with the ears below the wither. This way these horses will gradually develop the balance to rein-back in a higher neck position with a stronger back.

Clinic Report – The Rider's Position by Lindy Whitfort

On Saturday the 23rd of May nine of us gathered at Warramate Park in Seville for a clinic on Rider Position led by Susie Walker.

The day started at 8.30 with theory by the lovely wood fire in the lounge room of the homestead. We covered a lot of ground in the first hour and a half. We identified the various issues we wanted to address and set some personal goals. We rearranged the furniture and explored floor exercises.

After theory was the first of two 40 minute riding sessions with 2 to a group. This took us through to lunchtime when there was more discussion and a play on the saddle stands. The second riding session in the afternoon was a chance to reinforce the morning's lesson and explore the subtleties of position further. The best feedback was given by the horses when they showed "oh yes, that makes it much easier."

I hope there are more clinics covering this subject as it helps riders and horses get along so much better together. The lines of communication were clearer and it also helped with tackling those old riding habits that just make you sore.

FOR SALE

Reluctant Sale (Dallas) Pinto x Clyde mare 3yo DOB 21.11.11, approx 14.3hh

Dallas is a sweet mare, she likes being around people. She is always interested and obliging in whatever you do around her. She could be mistaken for an Arab than Clyde x pinto. She has great movement she would suit working equitation, natural horsemanship or a trail riding home.

She is the type of horse you would form a lovely partnership with. She is unbroken however is easy to float, trim and lead. Approved and loving home only.

Please call Jacqueline on 0408081527	\$3,800
--------------------------------------	---------



Dallas is for sale



1994 Toyota Landcruiser

TOYOTA LANDCRUISER 4x4 'XFP 184'

1994, one owner, Champagne colour (great for hiding the dirt), petrol
Genuine 200,000 klms, 5 speed manual, 5 door, 7 seater, 6 cylinder 4.5ltr motor, GXL
FZJ80R, cont.....

Reg till 24/8/15, build date Dec '94

Regularly serviced, vehicle is in great condition (inside and out) for its age, 'Cooper' tyres, AC, power steering and (tinted) windows, 'ARB' bullbar, side rails and steps, spotlights, UHF radio, 'Kaymar' rear step/towbar/wheel carrier, 'Old Man Emu' suspension, Never been off road, used for towing horse float and as a general transport vehicle, Updated to new vehicle, \$8,000 inc RWC

NISSAN TIIDA

This Nissan Tiida 2007 comes from a non smoking environment. I am only selling this car because my wife inherited her mum's car which she wants to keep for sentimental reasons.

This car is small and zippy. It has driver & passenger airbags, ABS brakes and air conditioning, full service logbooks and has always been kept in a garage or carport.

It has front door map pockets, front bottle/cup holders, 4 speakers, remote central locking and power door mirrors, tachometer. It has 5 seats, enough for the whole family and has never been in an accident. This car has electric power assisted steering, brake assist and electronic brake force distribution. With a powerful 1.8 litre engine this car is exceptional value at \$6,500. Comes with a roadworthy certificate and has only 124104 km on odometer.

Phone Deb Clow

0458 651 957.



Nissan Tiida