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Notes from Andrew

Happy New Year and well done to all members and volunteers for successfully negotiating through our first year. There were lots of issues and new things to tackle both as an unknown discipline (WE) and as an unknown club (WEYV). My sincere thanks to all volunteers on the Committee and every member for your support.

Last December the club held our first competition with three levels of the Ease Of Handling obstacles event. I saw many smiling faces throughout the day as riders worked their way through the obstacles (see photos on our new Web site). Equally there were enthusiastic and happy volunteers giving their time before, during and after the competition – it is these volunteers who made the day run smoothly for the riders. Thank you all.

In the lead up to this EOH competition, Susie Walker and Sarah Nickels went off and got accreditation as

EOH WE judges. Need I say the obvious - "without a judge there can be no competition" - Thank you Sarah & Susie.

Our web site is now up and active. A huge thank you is due to Denise McKay for her perseverance and ceaseless dedication to developing our club website. Have a look through it and let your friends know that we are here to offer a new and interesting perspective in horse riding clubs.

(www.workingequitationyarravalley.org)

We approached Ritchies IGA food stores for sponsorship and they have put us into their "Community Benefit" programme. So if you are near one of their outlets please use them and gain points and dollars for WEYV. Ask Susie for your individual "Community Benefit" card next time you see her.

Your Committee is working well with a number of new members volunteering to share the load and help make our club unique. The club is still in it growing phase, so we are pleased to receive your feedback and suggestions on any topic.

One again, thanks to each and every member for a successful first year. I am confident there will be many more to come.

Warm Welcome to our newest members Sue, Julie, Julia, Jeni, Katherine, Deb, Chris & Brenda

Until next time,

Hope to see you all at rallies and competitions with the "happiest of horses" in the Yarra Valley.

Andrew

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WEGBI - Working Equitation Governing Body.

This week marks the first official gathering of a new "Governing Body for Working Equitation in Victoria".
(WEGBI - VIC)

Four members from our club (Susie, Andrew, Anna & Denise) will represent WEYV at this meeting in

Melbourne and help to establish the agenda and purpose for a State body to support Working Equitation Clubs and members and to work together with the National body. This is a significant step forward for this sport in Australia.

WEYV Calendar of Events 2015

Event Date	Event Type	Venue	Closing date for bookings
Saturday, 10 January 2015	Club Fundraiser Play Day & Lunch	YGL Hunt Club	Cancelled
Wednesday, 21 January 2015	Social trail ride (non-club event)	Yea Rail Trail	
Wednesday, 4 February 2015	Club Rally	Gruyere Indoor	30-Jan-15
Saturday, 7 February 2015	Club Rally	Gruyere Indoor	02-Feb-15
Saturday, 21 February 2015	Summer clinic: Schooling for WE	Warramate Park	16-Feb-15
Wednesday, 4 March 2015	Club Rally	Melrose Farm	27-Feb-15
Saturday, 7 March 2015	Club Rally	Melrose Farm	02-Mar-15
Saturday, 21 March 2015	Training Day: WE Speed Phase	Melrose Farm	16-Mar-15
Wednesday, 8 April 2015	Club Rally	Melrose Farm	03-Apr-15
Saturday, 11 April 2015	Club Rally	Melrose Farm	06-Apr-15
Wednesday, 6 May 2015	Club Rally	Melrose Farm	01-May-15
Saturday, 9 May 2015	Club Rally	Melrose Farm	04-May-15
Saturday, 23 May 2015	Club Outing or Guest Instructor	TBA	18-May-15
Wednesday, 3 June 2015	Club Rally	TBA	29-May-15
Saturday, 6 June 2015	Club Rally	TBA	01-Jun-15
Saturday, 20 June 2015	Winter Clinic: Classical Dressage	TBA	15-Jun-15
Wednesday, 1 July 2015	Club Rally	TBA	26-Jun-15
Saturday, 4 July 2015	Club Rally	TBA	29-Jun-15
Wednesday, 5 August 2015	Club Rally	TBA	31-Jul-15
Saturday, 8 August 2015	Club Rally	TBA	03-Aug-15
Wednesday, 19 August 2015	Social trail ride (non-club event)	TBA	
Wednesday, 2 September 2015	Club Rally	TBA	28-Aug-15
Saturday, 5 September 2015	Club Rally	TBA	31-Aug-15
Wednesday, 23 September 2015	Spring Clinic: Working Equitation	TBA	18-Sep-15
Wednesday, 7 October 2015	Club Rally	TBA	02-Oct-15
Saturday, 10 October 2015	Club Rally	TBA	05-Oct-15
Saturday, 24 October 2015	WE Competition: Dressage, Style & Speed	TBA	
Wednesday, 4 November 2015	Club Rally	TBA	30-Oct-15
Saturday, 7 November 2015	Club Rally	TBA	02-Nov-15
Wednesday, 25 November 2015	AGM & Awards Night	TBA	
Wednesday, 2 December 2015	Club Rally	TBA	27-Nov-15
Saturday, 5 December 2015	Club Rally	TBA	30-Nov-15

Contact Rally Coordinator Lisa Saunders 0402 380 528 lisaandian@bigpond.com.au

VENUES

YGL Hunt Club Yarra Glen & Lilydale Hunt Club, 28 Melba Highway, Coldstream
Melrose Farm 131 Yarra View Road (corner Oliver Street), Yarra Glen
Gruyere Indoor 33 Maurice Road, Gruyere
Warramate Park 33 Sunnyside Road, Seville

Club Clinics

Thank you to those who have given their ideas on topics and formats for Club Clinics.

We would love to have feedback from everyone - so if you haven't yet had your say - there's still time before the next meeting. Its your club - we need your ideas and input to make it work well for all.

Please see the email and questions sent previously by Andrew.

AGM

Thank you to all who attended our AGM. It was a most productive and enjoyable night.

Our existing Committee was strengthened to 13 by a number of volunteers to assist in new roles!

My sincere thanks to these volunteers as this will certainly help spread the work load.

Next we had a young up-and-coming band perform a few modern cover songs for the entertainment of all while we shared a meal of tasty plates of goodies brought along by participants.

Dr Kim Johnson from Yarra Ranges Animal Hospital presented an information session on horse health from the perspective of worming. (Spaghetti & Gnocchi :))

Thanks go to Karen for providing the venue and to Susie, Kerry and Lisa for organising the details.

Photos from our Summer Obstacles Competition...







Summer Fires

With high temperatures and limited summer rainfall come conditions of high fire danger. During bushfires, people worry not only about their family and property but also about their livestock and pets.

There are steps that horse owners can take to prepare themselves in case their property is threatened by bushfires. The key to survival is forward planning and self reliance.

Everyone's situation differs according to the size and nature of their horse enterprise. That's why each and

every horse owner needs to consider their survival plan, coolly and calmly before the hot weather arrives.

Just do it! If you don't take the precautions outlined below within the next 24 hours, the chances are very good that you won't do anything at all to prepare for a bushfire. Do it today rather than wait for it to happen. If you live in a bushfire risk area it is essential to develop your Bushfire Survival Plan.

Include plans for your horses such as:

☐ A plan for early relocation of horses to a safer area. Horse relocations present unique problems. Make arrangements ahead of time for a place to temporarily relocate your horses. Options may include show grounds, sale yards, parks, racetracks, pony club grounds or placement with family and friends. Identify several possible routes from your property in case fire blocks your route. Decide in advance which horses you will evacuate and make sure that they are suitably trained for transport.

☐ Identify a 'safe area' on your property where horses can be placed if relocation is not possible or practical. This area should be as large as possible and may be a closely grazed paddock or be created from several paddocks by opening gates,, however you will need to ensure that the main gates to your property are secure to prevent horses and stock entering public roads. Ideally it should have a dam with clear access. An alternative 'safe area' might be a large well fenced sand ménage provided that there are no trees or buildings nearby that will burn readily.

☐ Posting your Bushfire Survival Plan in a clearly visible place together with the local vet telephone number and your property's map reference.

☐ Making sure that everyone who lives, works or agists at your property understands the plan.

☐ On days of Total Fire Ban, putting your horses in the designated 'safe area' or, if you work away from the property do this the night before.

☐ Having an annual meeting with neighbours, friends or other mutual interest groups to discuss fire contingency plans and establish ahead of time who will check on and help whom and which resources will be shared.

☐ Setting up a Bushfire Survival Plan with the landholder if your horses are agisted.

☐ Leaving horses in well grazed paddocks if they are on 'weekenders' in high risk areas of moving them to

a safer location during the fire danger season.



click this link to download [CFA Victorias Fact Sheet](#)

Can you help Spirit?

from Helen Sharp

A friend of mine has asked me to pass on her request to any horsey people that I know of in the hopes that someone may be able to offer assistance in finding her pony, Spirit, a new home.

Due to circumstances beyond either of their control Lea is looking to rehome Spirit but only to an approved home.

Some details about Spirit are below:-

Spirit is an 11 hh pony and was one of the 'abused, wild and untouched' ponies that were found in Japartit a few years ago. She was in very poor condition with a foal at foot and was surrendered, along with the many other ponies in the same paddock and condition, to Project Hope.

Steve Halfpenny and Dave Mellor from Silversand Horsemanship have been instrumental in getting Spirit to where she is today but she will be going to her new home as a companion pony ONLY. Lea has written the following:-

Thankfully to the work that both men have placed in on her, Spirit can be caught and haltered providing she is within confined space, i.e., small yard. She is still too allusive to catch in a paddock, but I am sure with dedication, that can be overcome. Yes, her feet are being trimmed every 4 to 5 weeks normally by my lovely barefoot trimmer, she is still getting used to having this done by someone other than Steve, but if they are kind, gentle and patient she will tolerate the trimming. She will go onto a float and wear a rug in winter. She does not tie up at this point in time. She is still very quick to react to stimulus, but the more handling she receives the quieter she becomes. It is when she is left to her own devices that she slips back. Spirit has had one foal that we know of, but under PH law she cannot be put in foal. Nor do I ever want to see her broken in to saddle or harness, she has ringbone on her left mid pastern that will send her lame if overworked, but it is my belief that some horses just should not be broken in to saddle/harness due to their makeup and back ground, she is one of them. Whoever takes her on should look upon Spirit as a companion pony to their own horses, she will not like being on her own.

Spirit belongs to Project Hope and whoever takes her on will need to be a PH member, this can be done easily. Within their rules, if you become a PH member and then a full time carer of a horse, after 5 years you can own them. I have had Spirit for nearly 3 years. Project Hope are aware that I am wanting to rehome her and have asked that I put together a little story about her, and where she is at now

So if anybody is able to help Lea out by giving the beautiful Spirit a home could you please contact her on Ph: 03 54292010 Fax: 03 54292022 www.smartbowen.com

Or you can contact me as well, Helen 0419030137

Click the picture to go to our wonderful new website!
Thanks Denise :)

Working Equitation Yarra Valley



Trail ride - Yea to Cheviot Tunnel and return by Helen Sharp

On Wednesday 21st January we had a trail ride starting from Yea. This ride was a joint union of WEYV members and some people that regularly have lessons with Steve Halfpenny of Silversand Horsemanship (now known as Lighthands Equitation). As it turned out most people were wearing both hats which was nice to see as I think Steve's horsemanship values go hand in hand with WEYV values.

We had Liane and Ruby, Cath and Missy, Morag and Victor, Brenda and Tillie, Chris and Winchester, Julie and Sebastian, Trish and D'Artagnon and myself and Dale. My husband Paul was also with us on his 'deadly treadly' bike!

Meeting at Yea Railway Station at about 9.30 (some were a little earlier than that) by 10am we were ready to file out onto the trail. It was about 18kms return to the tunnel and, though warm, fortunately the weather wasn't as hot as originally forecast, hanging about 30 deg by the time we got back. There were some shade trees along the trail offering respite every now and then.

Once out of the railway park and past the skate park we had to cross the Melba highway which was pretty quiet so didn't cause any problems. The trail ran parallel to the highway for a short

way before veering off into the bush and toward the first of our many concrete bridge crossings. Trish decided to get off her boy for the 1st few crossings as he was a bit hesitant but got back on soon after. Sebastian led the way over the bridges like he was a born leader, actually surprising Julie and she was very proud of him. I think there were about 6 or 7 bridges all up, I actually lost count but one of them was very long and curvy as it meandered over the dry river bed.

We finally made it to the tunnel and after a brief water stop for the horses we went for it. This time it was Dale's turn to lead as he'd been in there on a previous ride. All the others followed with no qualms that I was aware of but as we were about half way through the tunnel the 2 bicycle riders that had been at the far end for ages decided to choose that same time to come back through the tunnel, and riding their bikes! I yelled a quick request to stop for a moment as I could just imagine a domino effect happening if one of the earlier horses took offence to them being there. Bear in mind we were in the middle of the 200 mtr brick tunnel, visibility wasn't great (read as DARK) and there was nowhere to go but in or out. Anyway the bike riders were great and actually stayed at the other end to watch us come back out. Another quick water visit and we headed home. Now this put a spanner in a few works, the old 'go back the same way' syndrome! Liane and Ruby went on ahead and Brenda had her hands full with Tillie just being anxious but they were all pretty good. I did get a txt from Cath who was a little way back before I realised, just saying that Morag was having some difficulty with Victor and they'd meet us back at the floats. They arrived not that long after us. We'd unsaddled, fed and watered horses and sat down for a well-deserved lunch. The icecream/café just adjacent to where we were parked did a good trade on smoothies, icecreams etc for the weary riders. Paul had certainly earned his drink as he'd ended up walking about half the trail. He said that it was slightly uphill on the way to the tunnel and he was free-wheeling it on the way home! Maybe that was another reason the horses were walking so fast to get back?

This was a lovely ride, much quieter than the Warby trail, similar type of scenery I guess but much drier of course at this time of the year. Well worth the effort.

Cath on one of many bridge crossings



**YARRA VALLEY EQUESTRIAN
LANDCARE GROUP**

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**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT OF HORSE PROPERTIES**

Saturday 14th February, 2015 at 10.00am

Venue: St Andrews Pony Club & ARC Grounds
Clintons Road, Smiths Gully (Melway Map 264, J6)

This talk is to be presented by Cindy Edwards, an accomplished authority on parasite management in horses and co-author of

'Integrated Pest Management for the Horse Farm'
a 2007 report for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation.

Come and learn about and discuss this topical subject and hear how Dung Beetles can play an important role in improving your soils, pastures and maintaining a low burden of parasites in your horses.

The schedule for the morning will be:

9.45am	Arrive and sign in
10.00am	Presentation and questions
11.30am	Morning tea
12.00pm	Walkabout on the hunt for dung beetles

Cost: A gold coin donation would be appreciated
Sausage sizzle and coffee will be available to purchase as well

Enquiries and bookings: Cath Giles (NHAG) 0417 307 843 or
cathygiles@bigpond.com

Noticeboard**For Sale**

'Kendalee Jarrahman'



16.2hh, Bay Warmblood gelding, 11yo. Lovely rhythmic paces. Sweet affectionate nature. A Sensible, safe and reliable horse. Competing EV Dressage Preliminary and Novice. Scored 71.3% last outing in December 2014. Confident jumping.

Would suit someone wanting a safe, reliable, versatile horse to have fun with.

\$18,000 o.n.o to the right home.

Please phone Jan on 0412 170 566 or email jan@dueltek.com.au

Black KN Melodie Dressage saddle



Extremely Comfortable saddle in very good condition.
17 in, Medium - wide gullet, Made in Austria \$1800

Contact Susie - 0411 098 462

3 Saddles for sale!

Bates Innova 16.5" Size O dressage saddle \$1900: Black saddle, excellent condition, changeable gullet. Very comfortable. Cair cushion system. \$1900 ono

Bates Caprilli 17" Dressage saddle: Black near new condition dressage saddle. It does not have a changeable gullet. This is a very comfortable saddle. \$650 ono

Spanish Vaquero saddle new: Bought for a horse I no longer ride. She wore it once. It is new and a lovely saddle for long comfortable hours of riding. Used by the Spanish Vaquero(cowboys) as a real working saddle. Great for working equitation or Garotcha. Comes with crupper and matching saddle blanket. \$1450 ono

Contact Anna Gust 9458 5880 or annagust37@hotmail.com

Wanted

For WEYV an old (low cost) float or trailer to restore for the storage & transportation of equipment.

Contact Susie - 0411 098 462

Club Sponsors

Fay Diamantakis Massage Therapy



[Ranger Floats](#)



[Yarra Junction Saddlery](#)

All Members of WEYV will receive a 5% discount (excluding sale items)



[Organic Origins](#)

All WEYV members receive 10% discount



Your Committee (so far!)



Email to volunteer! susie.walker.susieg@gmail.com

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