

[Subscribe](#)[Share ▼](#)[Past Issues](#)[Transl](#)**Newsletter June 2014**[View this email in your browser](#)**Notes from Andrew**

Hi all,

Welcome to our new club and our first newsletter.

We are growing & now have 21 members!

HRCav have embraced WE & I feel confident we'll enjoy wider publicity & increased

patronage.

WE is new to Australia, with only a handful of clubs so far. A popular option for riders interested in new perspectives, respect for the nature of the horse, increasing & broadening skills. Horses have a spirit of adventure rising to the challenge of the various obstacles used in WE - be it a ball, a bell, a bull or a bridge!

WE started in Europe some 20 years ago by a dedicated group of riders who wanted to promote respect for the horse by adopting classical training for dressage in combination with obstacles & challenges commonly found on working farms.

It's very pleasing to see our members showing respect for horses. Via humane training seeking co-operation with this noble animal rather than the boring beat of a diss-spirited lazy horse constantly being nagged to move on.

Thanks goes to our committee for converting a germ of an idea into reality. I urge you to share WE & welcome others to come along & join in to see what it's all about.

Please talk to any of the committee members with your ideas, thoughts & dreams about developing our club where a relaxed co-operative relationship is developed between each horse & rider & each other too. There are many options for us to find interesting ways of creating trainable happy horses & to enjoy our club together.

Welcome to our newest members Belinda Wynne, Caroline Perrie and Annie Kesterton.

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Upcoming Rallies & Events

Thursday 26th June - Club Committee Meeting

Wednesday 2nd July - Rally at Melrose Farm

Saturday 5th July - Rally at Melrose Farm (And / or an Open Intro Clinic ?)

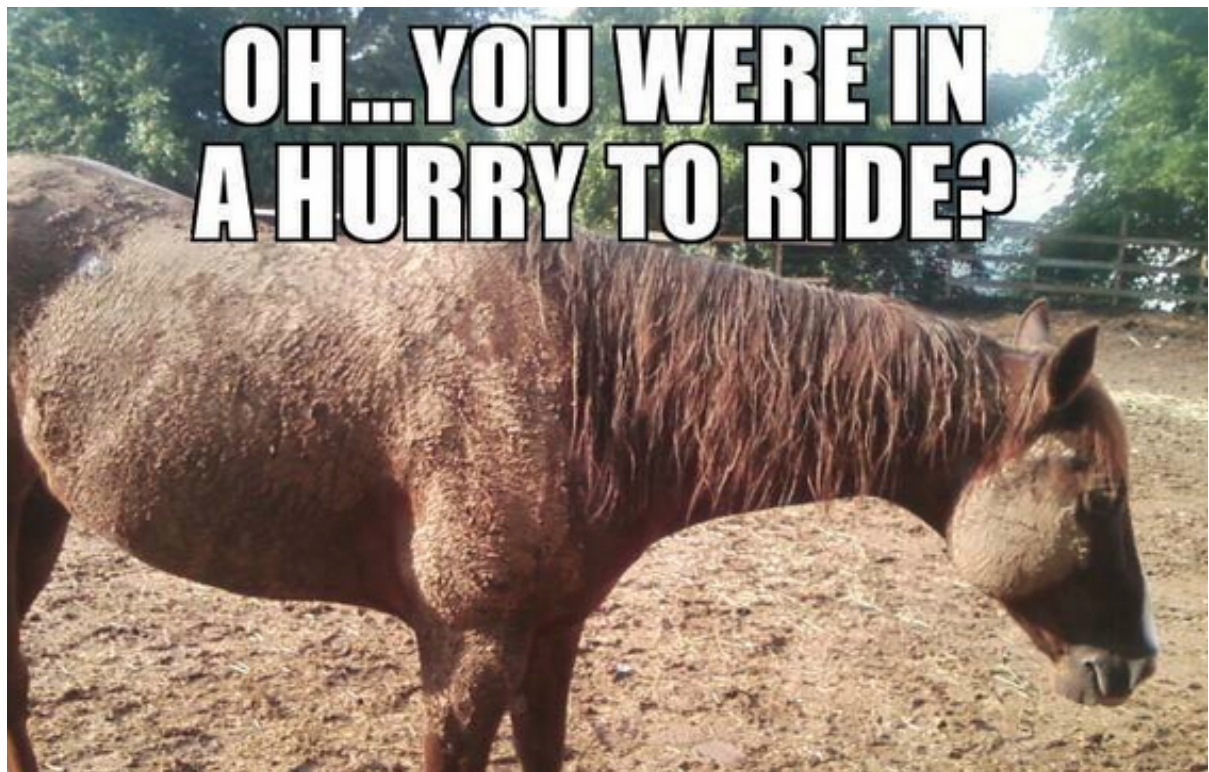
Saturday 12th July - Indoor Dressage Day at ASEA Yarra junction - **New Date Now!**

Wednesday 6th August - Rally at Melrose Farm

Saturday 9th August - Rally and/or Clinic Venue TBA

Be sure to book in for rallies at least 7 days in advance.

See you there!



Out & About

Here are some great pics of some of our members & their steeds!

Karen & Bouwe

Fundraising

Thank you to Marty from [Ranger Floats](#) of Hurstbridge who has donated a Service Voucher valued at \$285 for the club to provide as a bonus prize for our Dressage Day in July.

Thanks Marty!



Margaret & Army



Umbrella Training!



Karen & Bouwe



Noticeboard

For Sale

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

For Sale

Ben is a Bay Thoroughbred gelding, 15.3hh (approx), 8yo.

\$600 (\$700 with all rugs)

We have only had him around 6 months but due to no fault of his own, have decided it is in his best interest to go to a knowledgeable, strong and confident

Anna & Felix



leader as we feel he is going to waste. We have found no vices in him and he is very good with other animals and does not care about cars, dogs, etc.

He loves attention and food, doesn't mind a splash with the hose either!

Contact Helena on 0413378447

Why ride Working Equitation (WE)?

WE can also be described as "Functional Dressage" meaning it can be used to test your dressage skills and the quality of your horse's training in a way that focuses more on practical functionality and correct training than on the movements themselves, or on the paces and conformation the horse was born with.

Working Equitation is fun. It's not as easy as it looks! Try it and you'll love it. Even Grand Prix dressage riders find this sport challenging! Some even say that the horse has to be on that level to compete at the medium level, given that the Medium tests and above are ridden with one hand.

But no matter what level you are on, you and your horse can gain from the training and challenges in this discipline. The horse and rider have to put the skills of dressage training in the arena into real work and close-to-natural obstacles. Each exercise has a purpose and can be used in daily work with the horse in the fields or on the farm, or just for pleasure. The outcome is a happy handy horse, that is also supple, relaxed, and versatile. Even young green un-started horses benefit immensely from being introduced to the obstacles in-hand.

Because of this aim to train a functional horse, all horse breeds can to some degree benefit and succeed in this discipline.

by Susie Walker

Uniforms

When you are competing at a HRC AV event under your WEYV membership, you are required to wear club colours.

The club uniform for HRC AV competition comprises:

- White collared shirt or white shirt with stock
- Optional – Liver Chestnut neck scarf (pinned)
- Black or dark brown riding pants
- Liver chestnut (dark brown) vest with club logo affixed
- Black, brown or white saddle blank with club logo affixed

Embroidered club logos are available from the Treasurer as sew on badges in two sizes -

small (for vests or shirts) and large (for saddle blankets).

Alternatively logos may be directly embroidered on items by request at either Yarra Junction or Ringwood. Please contact our Uniform Coordinator [Leanne Smith](#)

LESSON AND ARENA ETIQUETTE

The safety of horses, riders and spectators is our priority. With this in mind:

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF YOUR LESSONS

- Remember you are riding for your own enjoyment and your horse's wellbeing, not for your coach or your friends, family, or those on the sidelines.
- You owe it to your horse to concentrate 100% on what you are doing. If you are not well, or are emotionally or physically fragile, it is not advisable to ride.
- Lessons are to help you with your own schooling at home, so it's wise to have a plan, and share it with your instructor. What are you working on at home? How can the instructor help you with that? Where are you having difficulty?
- Ask questions of your instructor to clarify points if you are concerned about what is being asked of you, or if you don't understand something.
- It is your responsibility to make sure you can hear and understand instructions. For safety it's important that you tell your instructor if you cannot hear them, or you don't understand what to do.
- If there is time you may query your instructor about the lesson, or what would be useful to continue with in your own training. Most instructors like curious students who want to improve. If there is not time, ask the instructor if you can send them an email with your questions.
- If the instructor corrects you for something, don't take it personally – they are trying to help you – that's what you are paying them for. Be positive. Be willing to try something new – it might feel strange, but it might work.
- On the other hand, if you feel the instructor is unprofessional or asks you to do something you are not agreeing with, discuss it. Tell them your concerns. But for the sake of others, try not to continually interfere with the progress of the lesson.

PRIOR TO YOUR LESSONS

- All in-hand schooling, lunging or ridden work done prior to or after lessons should be carried out in a calm and respectful way, considerate of those around you and of the horse's mental and physical condition.
- If you feel at risk or unsafe with your own horse, or any other horse you are near, it is imperative that you seek help immediately. We are all here to help each other, and to stay safe.
- If there is equipment to be set up for your lesson, offer assistance before mounting. Equally, if there is equipment to be packed away, make yourself available to help.
- If you are arriving late to a lesson, look around first to see what is happening so you can plan to enter the arena without interrupting other riders already moving in a pattern. Apologise to the instructor and ask their permission to join the group (this may not be possible if your horse is not warmed up or not previously assessed by the instructor)

ARRIVING AND ENTERING THE ARENA

- Always approach, enter and leave the arena at a walk.
- Arrive on time or early to give your horse a chance to settle into the working environment and the other horses.
- If the arena where your lesson is to be held is free, you are welcome to enter early to quietly and calmly work your horse.
- If there is a lesson in progress, please wait for the other lesson to finish before entering the working area unless the instructor has called you in.

GEAR CHECK AND INTRODUCTIONS

- Introduce yourself to a new instructor and advise them of your and your horse's experience, confidence, level and any concerns you have.

- If the instructor has not performed a gear check for you, please ask them to check your gear for safety and correct fit.
- Ensure you are aware of what gear and tack is, or is not, allowed at club.
- Tell the instructor at the start if there is something in particular you would like help with.

RIDING IN SHARED LESSONS

- Where possible riders and horses will be assessed and grouped in similar levels for all lessons. If you feel the level is too advanced or too basic for you and your horse please discuss it with the instructor, and advise the Rally Coordinator for future bookings.
- Be aware of where others are riding so you can safely respect their space.
- Acquaint yourself with horses that need you to keep distance (e.g. mares / stallions / young horses) and do your best to do so.
- If your horse is tense about others coming close, please advise the instructor and other riders, so they equally can keep their distance from you.
- If your horse kicks at other horses coming up behind them, please warn other riders and tie a red ribbon on your horse's tail.
- As a guide, you should leave a distance of two horse lengths between yourself and the horse in front.
- When passing another horse front-on, it is customary, where possible, to pass left shoulder to left shoulder, unless you are instructed otherwise. This is opposite to how we drive on the road in Australia!
- Never allow your horse to run up the rear of the horse in front. Turn to the inside of the arena, come in off the track to a small circle or ride across to another part of the arena where there is more space.
- If you need to stop for any reason, make your way to the middle of the group, clear of others riding around you, and tell the instructor what you are doing.
- Take a break. Horses and riders are at different fitness levels. It's perfectly fine to stop now and then. But just don't do it suddenly in front of the one behind you.
- If you carry a full length dressage whip, ensure when passing other horses, you don't inadvertently touch or flick them with your whip.
- If you are sharing a lesson or ride with riders doing two-track work, or riding at a faster pace, they have right-of-way at all times. i.e. If you are walking, stay on an inside track of those trotting, cantering or doing lateral work.
- Respect the teacher, listen and concentrate on the task at hand. Even if the instructor is teaching one other person and you are standing waiting – pay respect to the one being taught, and try to learn from their training.

HELP EACH OTHER

- If you see a rider having difficulty with an out of control horse, try to help them immediately if it is safe to do so. If required, bring the situation immediately to the attention of the instructor.
- If there is an accident or an incident, and if it is safe to do so, help the instructor to assist the rider, catch the horse, and get help if needed.
- Never ridicule, humiliate or yell at another rider for making a mistake.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all – including your horse.
- Be positive and encouraging to those with less confidence or skills, but if you see “an accident waiting to happen” be quick to alert the instructor.
- If you feel at risk or unsafe with your own horse, or any other horse you are near, it is imperative that you speak up and seek help immediately. We are here to help each other, to provide a safe environment, and to stay safe.
- If you are schooling your horse near a booked lesson (private or shared), please respect that space by avoiding activities that may disrupt the horse in the lesson.

LEAVING THE ARENA

- If you need to leave your lesson early, please advise the instructor as soon as you know, and excuse yourself quietly from a lesson.
- Please leave the arena at a walk and when returning to the float/yards area or generally moving around the grounds, do so at a walk so as not to disrupt other horses.
- Ensure all manure is removed from the arena if your horse has made a deposit.
- Consider picking up any other droppings left behind too.
- Please report any equipment or fencing that is damaged or dangerous

- A small gesture of goodwill goes a long way to creating an atmosphere of care for your club facilities and your fellow riders.
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GEAR GUIDELINES

Less is more

At WEYV, we are of the opinion that 'less is more'. Equipment for handling horses should be effective without causing stress or injury, and gear should be designed for maximum safety of the handler and horse. Tack should be well made, correctly fitted and comfortable for the horse.

Classical training aims to train with respect for the horse. It avoids employing gadgets and gimmicks that force, trick or restrict the natural movements or habits of horses. We don't think there are quick fixes or magic pieces of tack that make our work easier. Often the times when we think we need stronger equipment to control a horse are the times when we need to rethink our training methods.

Preferred gear for leading, tying, in-hand work, lunging

- A halter and lead rope is the most common form of in-hand restraint.
- We prefer leather or webbing halters (rather than thin rope halters) as they are wider at the sensitive pressure points of the poll and the nose, if the horse should pull back or stand on the lead.
- The safest knots are those that can be quickly untied even if the horse has pulled on it.
- Tying should never be done from the bit. If the horse pulls back from a tie or gets loose, or stands on the lead rope, there is risk of severe damage to the mouth.
- Lunging can be safely done from a halter, bitless bridle or cavesson.
- Lunging from the bit, or in side reins, running reins or draw reins is not permitted at WEYV.

Bridles & Bits

- If you are competing at an HRCav event you will need to refer to the HRCav Event rules. Only saddlery and equipment specified in the discipline specific Rule Book is permitted at Official Events. <http://www.hrcav.com.au/default.asp?Page=1323>
- At WEYV rallies, clinics and unofficial events we have guidelines in relation to bridles:
 - Gear assistance and checks take place for each new combination
 - You are welcome to use a fitted bitless or a bitted bridle.
 - If you use a noseband it must be fitted loosely enough for the horse to chew naturally. (Two finger width fit between the nose and the band).
 - Crank, flash and drop nosebands are not recommended.
 - Martingales, side reins, running reins, draw reins are not permitted.
 - Please refer to the HRCav Dressage rules in relation to bits.
 - Ordinary single jointed snaffle bits with cheek pieces are useful for schooling dressage, and also for one-handed working equitation.

Saddles & Girths

- Any type of saddle may be used.
- For official HRCav competitions, if a single buckle girth is used the HRCav requires that the saddle be fitted with a surcingle as well.
- For official WE competitions (when available) you are able to compete in any saddle as long as you stick to the general cultural theme. (ie Western Horse, Western Saddle, Western dress. Spanish Horse, Spanish Saddle, Spanish dress etc.)

- Correct saddle fitting is a high priority for all ridden work. For horse welfare and your safety professional saddle fittings are recommended, and may be arranged at our rallies from time to time.

Club Sponsors

Ranger Floats



Yarra Junction Saddlery

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



Organic Origins

All Members of WEYV will receive a 10% discount



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