

**Newsletter November 2014**[View this email in your browser](#)**Notes from Andrew**

Hi all,

The new membership year is upon us. We look forward to many new members and hope that existing ones re-join. A warm welcome to our new members this month.

Our first year has been a great success. It was in February this year when a few dedicated people ventured into the little known concept of creating a Working Equitation riding club.

A committee formed with the objective of not only embracing Working Equitation, but embracing it with the respect for the horse as our fore most deliverable with every activity.

Within weeks WEYV was incorporated and became a legal part of the HRCV. This was achieved through the hard work and dedication to detail from Kerry (Treasurer) & Susie (Secretary)

Our first rally with obstacles was held in March just a few weeks after we became Incorporated as a club.

As this year closes and we approach our AGM with 29 members. I invite them all to attend our first AGM & Awards Night on Tuesday 25th November to be held in the Barn at Melrose Farm where will have a short AGM meeting followed by a social dinner (Bring a plate) and a local Vet as our guest speaker. I hope you can join us there to celebrate our first year and participate in the running of the club for the next year.

We have a wonderful supportive committee who are doing a terrific job, but many hands make light work and I sincerely hope that we get some more members on the committee to enable us to deliver a greater spread of rallies and events and to publicise our goals and objectives.

Happy, safe and respectful riding to you all over the summer months!

Until next time

Andrew

**Warm Welcome** to our newest members Lindy, Tess, Carola, Morag & Cath

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- Facebook - like us!

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### Upcoming Rallies

Tues 25th Nov - \*\*\*AGM Social Evening, Awards Night & Guest Speaker (Vet)\*\*\*

Wed 3rd Dec - Club Rally - Afternoon & Twilight Rally with Two Instructors - Susie Walker & Sarah Nichols

Sat 6th Dec - our WEYV EOH Obstacles Competition - come and join in our first unofficial Obstacles comp more info below)

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

See you there!

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### Our Summer Competition... is near approaching!

This competition is for fun, so don't worry if you have not competed before as we will still cater for you.

This is like a schooling competition to give yourself and your horse an opportunity to give it go in a relaxed environment. Its our first WEYV Obstacles comp too!

So come and join us, to ride or to watch and find out what its all about, have a cuppa, buy a raffle ticket, and make some new friends.

Our classes are broken into three groups: (see below)

Note that we will only be having the Ease of Handling Obstacles (Style Phase) to keep it simple for everyone, and for our first one. Next time we will have a go at combining Dressage with Obstacles.

#### Introductory – Walk/Trot

For those not ready to canter around obstacles yet, we understand the level of difficulty, strength and training required to canter the course. There is no canter allowed in this level, and you can take the obstacles at either a walk or a trot. You can walk the obstacles and trot between them. Or walk it all.

[An Intro Course](#)

#### Preliminary – Walk/Trot/Canter

If you feel a little more confident, this class is for you. We ask that as a minimum you trot between obstacles (though cantering will gain extra points if you do it in style) and attempt to try some of the easier obstacles at a trot as well. This is a great level for those who are still working on balance, impulsion and relaxation through transitions. Transition in and out of canter may be through the trot or the walk.

[Preliminary Course](#)

#### Intermediate – Walk/Trot/Canter

For the more advanced ones. Here your horse is required to be relaxed and balanced in transitions and be showing some true working equitation style. You still ride two handed – or can try one hand at times, if you like.

[Intermediate Course](#)

Here's the [Competition Flyer](#)

Here's the [Entry Form](#)

See you there!

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### WEYV members & their steeds!





### 1st Club Trail Ride

Four club members braved the elements to ride on the Warby Trail, on the inaugural club trail ride, which will be the first of many I hope.

The weather was a bit 'iffy' to say the least hence a couple of people opting for drier alternate activities for the day but for Lindy, Belinda, Sonja and myself it was well worth the effort.

We met at Woori Yallock station at 10am and were ready to ride by 10.30, once we'd located suitable mounting blocks that is. Fences and picnic tables were the order of the day, plenty of them around and once that small problem was sorted we headed east along the trail towards Launching Place. We opted for that direction for a couple of reasons - the long bridges heading back towards Seville were probably going to be a bit slippery, and Sonja had never been towards Launch. Belinda and Lindy had never used the trail in either direction so it was all new to them anyway.

The horses were all good together and settled fairly well although Felix, Lindy's horse wasn't quite sure about the kids at play in the school grounds. The grazing cows and sleeping bulls were ok (as long as they stayed sleeping) and then at the Healesville road crossing we had workmen building a new footpath. This worked in our favour actually as they had traffic control signs out so we were able to cross with no traffic hassles.

The trolls were also asleep under the 1st small bridge so no bother there, we even managed a trot further along the way which settled any jitters amongst horses and riders alike. We took a slight detour off the trail to do a bit of 'suburban' work which brought us out just short of the Launching Place shops then back onto the trail for the trip back though I did go a bit further east till we got to the Warby Hwy again opposite the Home Hotel, just so that the girls had an idea of where exactly they were!

On our way home I pointed out the ostrich, emu and deer farm on a property along the trail. Thankfully the neds didn't batt an eyelid at any of the above, it was the riders I think that were more concerned! Another trot brought us into the rock cutting where we timed it well. The wind and rain whipped up around us in a brief shower but we were fairly sheltered in there and it cleared as we got back out into the open part of the trail.

We were back at the floats by 12.30 after a very pleasant 2 hour ride. Lindy and Sonja headed off straight

away but Belinda and I lingered a while, having a chat about all things horsey of course, and giving the hungry mounts a well deserved nibble on the green stuff. One last wintery blast came through as we were loading up so all in all, while it wasn't the nicest of sunny days it wasn't too bad at all.

written by Helen Sharp

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### **The grass may be greener but is this always best?**

I have always been a huge fan of luscious green grass for my horse, why not, he loves it and it makes me happy when I see him tucking into a fresh paddock like he hasn't seen grass for months. ( I think its a mother thing). Horse are supposed to eat grass right?

You know that old saying "we are never too old to learn" it is so true and I have been on a huge learning curve over the last couple of months.

I have a 10yr young 17hh Anglo Arab/Stock horse named Sebastian. I bought Sebastian approx 18mths ago when my old boy Dougie let me know that it was time to start taking life a little easier. My journey since Seb came into my life has had many ups and downs and towards the end of last year I almost gave up on him and planned to move him on.

His behaviour was often quite erratic, very changeable, he could go from standing quietly at the hitching rail to running backwards with his eyes rolling around in a split second. Snapping whatever he was tied with and to at the time. Seb has kicked me, bitten me and just been generally difficult to deal with. In between these times though he has also had times where he has been well behaved and shown a sweet side which has probably been his saving grace. I just had a "gut" feeling that there was a nice horse inside there but how to find him? I was running out of options.

Seb started having soreness issues last spring, he had acupuncture & chiropractic treatment and seemed to be on the improve only to be very sore again. This continued on & off for the next few months until one day in Autumn when I saddled him for a light work out and he didn't want to walk away from the mounting block. With a little persuasion he moved off but was clearly very unhappy so I returned him to his paddock.

Whilst walking him back his hind legs gave way momentarily with his right hind dragging behind for a metre before he got it back under him, this sent alarm bells ringing in my head. I knew there was something serious happening to my horse.

I friend directed me to google to see what I could find about Grass Tetany and this is where I came across the Gotcha Equine website. My learning about grass affected horses was about to begin. They have a checklist for symptoms on their site and I promptly started to go through it, tick after tick later I realised that this was more than likely the answer to all Seb's issues. Grass affected horses are a bit like kids with ADHD when you give them red cordial!!! Out of control through no fault of their own.

I immediately took Seb off the grass, he is allowed as much plain grass hay as he likes and within days I was wondering who had switched my horse, he was a different animal. Seb now is allowed grass during the day but locked up at night with hay. Only old grass though no new bright green growth which is full of sugar, no rye grass, paspalum etc. He has a vitamin/ mineral supplement, magnesium and also a buffer to help his body cope with the toxins building up in his body and help him to expel them, he has these in a feed twice a day of Speedibet & oaten chaff with a few chopped up carrots.

The toxins had built up to such a level that his muscles were "tying" up hence the staggers like behaviour. Within a few days I could ride Seb again and I am slowly building his strength up after months of interrupted work. He works happily & willingly now, we even had a jump at the last rally.

Of concern to me now is how many poor horses are out there being punished for bad behaviour or sent to the market as "no good" because of the grass they are eating. Please if you are having behavioural issues with your horse have a look at his diet and perhaps try the limited grass and plain feed and you may get a lovely surprise.

This is not an advert for Gotcha Equine but if you would like more information please visit their website, another good site is NZ based called Provide It they also have a wealth of information on the subject.

I was chatting with Susie the other day and she asked me to share my story with you as perhaps it may be of some use to members who may have similar issues. Everyone who knows Sebastian has commented on how much he has changed recently in his behaviour and body, his muscles are relaxed whereas before he was always uptight, his eye is soft and kind and he now wants to interact with people.

Those of you who did the clinic with me earlier this year might remember Seb bucking his way around the arena, at the time I put it down to high spirits and a bit of naughtiness but now know it was the tightness in his hamstrings.

Sebastian is a "new" horse and perhaps there are more horses out there who would like to feel this good about life again and owners who would like to see them this way.

Worth having a think about I believe, I am still amazed at the results.

Happy horsing

Julie Hanssen

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### **A couple of adventurers in our midst!**





My mum (a total beginner) and I, both new members of WEYV are tackling a small part of the Bicentennial National Trail together next year in Feb/March/April for about six weeks. We are travelling from Melbourne to Canberra, covering approximately 1000kms on our trusty ponies and are so far having a great time planning and preparing for the trip. If anyone is interested in following our adventure, like our Facebook page which links to our blog posts. The Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/mudanddust2015>

For those who don't know the BNT is a 5330km mixed use trail from Healesville to Cooktown. Mostly used by horse riders, mountain bikers and hikers it is closed to motorised transport, run entirely by volunteers and represents a significant living memorial to the history of droving, horses and cattle in this country. Mum and I are riding for fun, fitness and adventure and might choose a charity to raise funds for if we can think of an appropriate one. Particularly of interest as WEYV sits at the very start (or end) of the trail which officially begins in Healesville.

Happy riding!

Cath Bateman



**Ease of Handling Phase** in Working Equitation is the second phase of the competition.

The objective of this trial is to demonstrate a rider's and horse's capacity to calmly, precisely, stylishly and regularly deal with any obstacles designed to simulate difficulties which could be encountered by a farm working horse.

The attributes of the correct working horse include:

- Rhythm, Relaxation, Regularity
- Obedience and confidence
- Acceptance of and Response to the Aids
- Suppleness of the Bend and Roundness
- Impulsion
- Straightness
- Collection and Balance
- The phase also test the attributes of a correct working rider. These attributes include:
  - Balance and Relaxation
  - Flexibility
  - Strength
  - Coordination
  - Feel
  - Athletic and fitness

excerpt from Australian Working Equitation Inc  
Safety Management Rules & Regulation Edition;  
1 2014

**Noticeboard****For Sale Best Forever Home Wanted**

A horse has come into the care of one of my friends that is involved with Project Hope and she is looking for a new forever home for him.

He is a Clydie X or Gypsy Cob type gelding, approx. 15hhs,

Black and white with 2 amazing blue eyes

5 years old, not started as yet but hoping to go to Dave Mellor, Silversand Instructor in Bendigo

He is great to float, first one to come up and say hello, getting better with picking up feet and is very clever.

Has come into care through Project Hope from RSPCA where his previous owner was charged with neglect and brutality.

Has been to a few places since then but has remained unwanted. Kerryn has had him for a couple of weeks and he is turning out to be a really nice boy, despite his bad beginnings.

The new owner would have to become a member of Project Hope which will be \$45 a year membership and there will be other stipulations regarding lease/ownership.

Kerryn wishes him to go to someone in the Silversand group as he deserves the best. He will stay with Kerryn until the right home comes along.

Contact Helen and she will pass on your interest to Kerryn.

**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

**Wanted!**

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

Contact Susie - 0411 098 462

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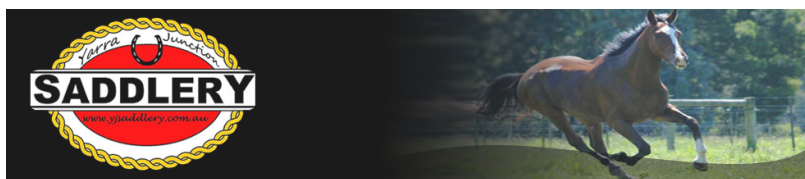
## Uniforms

Other than an ASA approved helmet, and safe riding boots, our uniform is not required at rallies, but is necessary for official HRCav competitions and events. When you are competing at a HRCav event under your WEYV membership, you are required to wear club colours.

The club uniform for HRCav 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

## Badges



[From Yarra Junction Saddlery](#)

## Shirts

White HorZe Show Shirts - \$45 with WEYV embroidery



**Saddle Blankets**

Quilted Saddle Blankets - \$57 with WEYV embroidery



Order from the Uniform Coordinator (Leanne)

Sample vests and buttoned Competition shirts are also on their way. Details soon!

**Uniform Contacts, Ordering & Selection Information** - [Click here!](#)

**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:
  - o Gear assistance and checks take place for each new combination
  - o You are welcome to use a fitted bitless or a bitted bridle.
  - o 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).
  - o Crank, flash and drop nosebands are not recommended.
  - o Martingales, side reins, running reins, draw reins are not permitted.
  - o Please refer to the HRCav Dressage rules in relation to bits.
  - o 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**



**Fay Diamantakis Massage Therapy**  
0408 035 411



[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](mailto:susie.walker.susieg@gmail.com)

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