

AUGUST 2016

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

Springtime is almost here, hoorah I hear you say? I guess I'm not alone in saying that I'm totally over the mud, the cold and the wind! I know Spring and Summer bring on a whole new set of issues/problems/joys but I'll take them at the moment. Ask me again in another 4 months time, ha ha ha.

As the Olympics are drawing to a close we've seen some outstanding performances across all sports, as well as some that we would rather forget! I was just watching some of the gymnasts doing their freestyle floor routine with a ball or hoop. Coming from someone who gets dizzy just thinking about doing a somersault I was totally mesmerized with the

way they worked and contorted themselves to make that ball or hoop part of their being, and making it into a seemingly effortless dance. Pity I couldn't say that about some of the Equestrian riders that I watched. To say that it was disappointing is an understatement and the debate will go on for a while yet so I'm not going to even go there, it'll all come out in the wash I guess!

I have included an article further down from one of my favourite Blog writers, Anna Blake. She just about sums it all up for me.

OUR NEW BRIDGE

It has arrived, thanks to the skilled craftsmanship of Chris Millott (with a little technical input from wife Brenda) both past members of our club. We have finally spent the last of the Bendigo Bank sponsorship money that we received last year. It was allocated to purchase our own set of obstacles. The existing bridge that we had was a little too heavy and cumbersome for all but those with big muscles, and it needed a team of weightlifters to bring it out and put into position. Even though this new bridge is bigger (made to ANWE specs for the future) it is easily manoeuvrable by 2 people as it has wheels, is in 2 pieces and locks together without any effort on our part. The wheels are designed to lock away underneath the bridge once it is wheeled into position and this **MUST** be done before **ANY** weight is put on it or the wheels and fittings will be damaged.



Set-up instructions will accompany the bridge so that anybody can get it out and put it together.

SPONSORSHIP APPLICATION NO 2

Last week I lodged our 2nd sponsorship application with WYDCOM (Woori Yallock & District Community Bank) part of the Bendigo Bank, this time for some funds to purchase some smart new uniform items for our club.

Julia and I sourced a lovely polo top and jacket that would be embroidered with both our logo and the Bank logo, as community supporters.

We will be notified in the next few weeks if the application was successful so fingers crossed that it will be approved and we can continue our involvement with this fabulous Community minded Bank wearing our new clothing and advertising both our club and the Bank.

DRESSAGE TEST PRACTISE DAY

This will be run along similar lines to the recent Style Obstacle Test day that was a huge success for our members, and again this is a members only day.

The Dressage day will be on Saturday 17th September at Gruyere Indoor Arena. Susie has posted details out to members on our Facebook page as well as via email.

Lisa will shortly be sending out her usual email requesting bookings for this day, cost will be \$45.

Margaret Anderson is coming over from Geelong to judge for the day so we are very thankful that she has offered to do this again for us.

Like the obstacle day members will ride the test and then get feedback from the judge, and have the opportunity to ride the test again.

SEPTEMBER RALLY

We have 2 guest instructors for both these rallies, in fact they are probably more classed as 'almost resident' instructors of our club! Natasha Jones will be coming back for the Wednesday rally on 7th and Sarah Nickels will be in charge on the Saturday 10th.

Both these days will be run as Dressage only lessons, twin share for 1 hour so places will be limited.

Lisa has already sent out the booking forms via email so don't forget to book in and pay if you want to attend either of these days.

RALLY DUTY ROSTER FOR SEPTEMBER

Rally Duty this Month: September at Gruyere

Wednesday 7th Rally: Val Mackintosh, Anglea Lloyd

Saturday 10th Rally: Karen Gilling, Kaileen Pearson

Remember it is **YOUR** responsibility to arrange a replacement if, for whatever reason, you are not able to do your rally duty day.

Please note the following 'Rules & Regs' for our rallies/clinics at Gruyere.

GRUYERE INDOOR ARENA NOTES

Note to members & Guests re Rallies & Clinics at Maurice Road Indoor:

The indoor at Gruyere is a private property and residence of Deb, Wes & Hayley Harper.

In order to make sure our club can continue to have access to this indoor we ask you to please

Ensure the following:

1. Please enter the gateway past the indoor arena for parking. For safety of riders and horses the first driveway is not to be used.
2. We ask that visitors cars (without floats), leave ample clear space for floats and horses to move around.
3. Collect all horse poo from the arena as soon as possible, before it spreads, barrows and scoops are provided around the arena and in the car park.
4. We have access to great yards but ask that you also ensure no manure or left over hay is left in the yards or car park when you leave.
5. When full, barrows need to be emptied onto the manure heap at the back of the arena.
6. There is a lovely new kitchen, with a wood heater and lounge. Our club provide tea and coffee making facilities for you and ask that you clean up any mess after you and also do your dishes and put them away. Please be careful with the log fire and ensure no articles are placed close to or on the fire box.
7. Toilets are at the end of the stable block.
8. Water is available for the horses near the tanks in the car park and also in the laneways by the yards.
9. Please leave dogs at home

If you have any questions or concerns about the facilities please advise one of our members as soon as possible.

As per the notes above re not leaving any manure or hay when you leave - it may be a good idea to bring along a bag and take it home with you.

AUGUST RALLIES

These rally days were dressage only so that we could have the opportunity to practise for the upcoming Dressage Test Practise day on September 17th.

I, for one, had forgotten how challenging riding a test in a 20x40 arena is (though my arena here at home is that size) but I have been slack in actually doing transitions etc at the markers so when it came down to following the test I was abit out of whack, to say the least! Anyway that's what these days are for, to work out what skills we need to hone in on, maybe it could be lack of concentration or memory, or more practise required on transitions.

In the afternoon on both days Anna took a few people to work on some Garrocha skills and this was enjoyed by all. Anna got the riders used to handling the pole by doing some exercises on the ground before introducing the pole to the horse, then using it in the saddle. Working with the Garrocha (14 foot pole) in the saddle really enhances your one handed riding skills, puts more vision into riding circles, and it's a whole lot of fun as well.

I think we may have to make the Garrocha lessons happen a bit more often Anna?





A big thankyou to my lovely friend Sue Hain who surprised me with a stand of lovely cupcakes for my birthday on the Wednesday rally. Fay and I share the 'official' horse birthday on 1st August.

INTERNATIONAL JUDGE TO VISIT VICTORIA

I have attached a PDF flyer with the final details of this clinic with Nicola Danner. Please refer to that if you would like to attend, and for booking details.

CLUB FUNDRAISER

Goodwill Wines

Don't forget to order your special wines for our club fundraiser.

Carola has advised that she ordered her half dozen and that they are a very nice drop, and the bottles with our logos on them look particularly wonderful as well.

May be a thought for a birthday or christmas gift idea?

Drink Wine For Charity

BY ELISHA KENNEDY 13th July 2016

Drink wine and do good. In partnership with Social Traders and Australia Post, we talk to one of the social enterprises on their Good Spender website: Goodwill Wine.

David Laity was one of the thousands of people displaced by the 2009 Black Saturday Bushfires in Victoria.

At the time of the blaze, Laity was living in Chum Creek and working at a nursery in the Yarra Valley. But after tearing ligaments in his knee while fighting the flames, he couldn't return to work. "Like so many others I lost all my belongings and my job," says Laity. "But I was overwhelmed by the support we received from charities and from within the local community."

Laity received recovery assistance from Centrelink, and through one of its programs undertook a three-month new-enterprise course, which helps those eligible start and run their own small businesses.

Laity's business idea was inspired by the charitable response to his own time of need. He would label and repackage end-of-production wine – leftover product that isn't cost-effective for wineries to label, package and distribute themselves. He'd then personalise each bottle and sell on, passing around 50 per cent of the profits to selected charities.

"It's a way for the wineries to move those last cases without added costs," says Laity. "Sometimes they've got a couple of cases of absolutely high-end wine but it isn't viable for them to do another label print run. They're too good to give away or sell as cleanskins, and we can agree on a reasonable price since they can also feel good about where the wine is going."

Laity and his partner at the time received \$15,000 from The Red Cross Bushfire appeal. With this money they purchased a printer and their first batches of wine from local boutique wineries. In August of 2010 they launched Goodwill Wine online, passing along half of the profits from each sale to the Country Fire Authority.

Five years down the track Laity is still being approached by vineyards around the country. Before committing Laity usually gets a tank sample of the wine variety and will decide if it's the right fit for Goodwill. Bottles are labelled with the year and area of origin, but not the wine's source, as some are well-known, award-winning wines being sold at a much lower price than usual.

Some of the winemakers he's sourced wines from include Owen Latta, a young winemaker based in north-western Victoria; Graeme Miller, winner of the Jimmy Watson Memorial

Trophy (Australia's most prestigious wine award); and Franco D'Anna, winner of James Halliday's Best Value Vineyard of the Year award 2015.

"Charity wines have a terrible reputation," says Laity. "So it took a while for people to understand that all the wines we are selling are seriously good."

Customers on the Goodwill Wine site select a charity or organisation to receive 50 per cent of the profits. Charities on the site now include Sea Shepherd and Animals Australia. Wine can also be bought through [Good Spender](#); a retail platform launched by Social Traders and Australia Post that guides consumers in buying directly from social enterprises, which are businesses that exist to benefit the community.

"We've been on board with Good Spender from the very beginning," says Laity. "It's impressive that such a large company like Australia Post maintains that partnership with Social Traders. I think Social Traders is doing such important work expanding the field of Australian social enterprises."

While each bottle was initially hand-labelled by Laity to reflect the charity it supported, Laity now has a labelling solution that unites the wines and reflects the ethos of his enterprise.

He approached artist and musician Reg Mombassa who agreed to donate his iconic artwork for a new label, which is being developed this year. Labels will be printed with the varietal information and there will be a place on each bottle for the personalised charity sticker that indicates where the profits are going.

Top-notch wine from independent vineyards that's cheap, delicious, benefits local charities and features striking artwork by Reg Mombassa? It'll be hard to look past that.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2016

For info and bookings email Lisa Saunders at lisandian@bigpond.com.au
Book early: Closing dates for bookings & payment is 5 days prior to event.

WEYV Calendar:

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

2016 DATES

September -	Wednesday 7 th Saturday 10 th	Club rally Club rally	Gruyere Gruyere
October -	Wednesday 5 th Sunday 9 th	Club rally Club rally	Melrose Farm Melrose Farm
November -	Wednesday 2 nd Sunday 6 th Wednesday 16 th	Club rally Club rally AGM	Melrose Farm Melrose Farm Melrose Farm
December -	Wednesday 7 th Sunday 11 th	Club rally Club rally	Melrose Farm Melrose Farm

Dates for 2017 calendar were pencilled in at the last committee meeting and once confirmed with venues will be published in a forthcoming newsletter.

MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

All seems a bit quiet on the riding side of things, may be the winter blues to blame for this?

FACEBOOK and WEBSITE

Don't forget that our club has a Facebook page as well as a great website. If you are a Facebook member go to Working Equitation Yarra Valley to get some great training articles by Susie along with lots of our general info re rallies and special events, photos etc.

The website is also great for more technical club info with HRCav links.
www.workingequitationyarravalley.org

UNIFORMS

If you have any queries re uniforms or saddle blankets please contact Julia on 0437 741871 or on the email at the end of the newsletter.

We do have a small amount of embroidered short and long sleeved white tops available for purchase.

EDITORS CHOICE ARTICLE

Judging Dressage – by Anna Blake

Dressage isn't perfect, but what part is baby and what part is bath water?

Watching the Dressage competition at the Olympics was inspirational. And horrific. There were impeccable riders with fluid bodies and invisible cues. And riders who were brutal, with hard hands and cruel methods. There were horses who were light and brilliant; who moved with such freedom and elegance that it took my breath away. There were horses whose bodies were so filled with tension and resistance, that I choked just watching.

In other words, pretty much the way I feel when I see high-dollar horses compete. There have always been two ways to train and ride, and one look at the horse's eye tells the truth.

Social media predictably exploded: Some defend abuse and some deny it. Some just like to pour gasoline on the fire. Rumour, guilt by association, and out-and-out lying stand beside positive training. It's the easiest thing in the world to be critical, and ranting has a real value. If enough of us do it, horses will benefit. Still, tearing the entire sport down from the cheap seats is too easy.

But let's be clear. The problem is not dressage. Or eventing or racing or reining. The problem is that we lose sight of the thing every horse-crazy girl knows. You always have to put your horse first. Obviously the biggest challenge going up the levels in dressage is to lift our own humanity, along with our horse's movements, to a more balanced and beautiful place.

A few weeks back, I got a call from my local dressage chapter looking for volunteers and I was ready to scribe the next Friday morning. A scribe sits next to the judge and writes down the comments and scores for each movement in the test. It's like taking dictation but there isn't much room to write and tests move right along. I've scribed for international judges and learner judges and always come away with something valuable to take back to my clients.

Each rider comes in for a brief warm-up, greets the judge, and when the bell rings, enters the arena. Some of the rides are smooth and sweet. Some come apart and we've all been there. Some of the riders are cool

and relaxed with lots of experience. Some are new and giddy to be out with their horses. There were pre-teens and women of a certain age and everyone in between. Some horses are fancy with lively dramatic gaits and some are steady and kind partners of no particular bloodline.

There were no cruel bits or bloody spurs. I saw no horses behind the bit and each rider did their best to keep quiet hands and soft legs. Everyone wore helmets. The horses were well-groomed and well-loved and the riders polished their boots. Because pride of appearance is the first way we show respect to the discipline we love.

We shared pizza for lunch and people congratulated each other. This judge was somewhat quirky, which I don't have to tell you is totally normal for the horse world. But her comments were consistent, she didn't give away any free marks, and if some riders were unhappy they were good sports about it. In the afternoon the judge showed me photos of her own horses. I think she was missing them.

Toward the end of the day, during the obligatory afternoon thunderstorm, a rider finished her test with the usual salute and released her reins. Her smile was as bright as the tall stockings on her horse. It was her second test that day and an improvement over the first. She blurted out, with so much wild enthusiasm that it bordered on shrill, "Thank you! Thank you for coming!" We almost flinched at the howl of good will!

Driving home I thought this is my dressage.

Dressage isn't owned by millionaires or elite breeders or any particular country. The vast majority of dressage riders in this country ride below second level, on horses we'll keep forever. They own this sport as much as anyone else.

Some years I have clients who compete and I'm on the other side of the judge's table. Sometimes the horses I work with never compete but practice dressage, working to gain strength and suppleness and balance. Riders might ride in a different saddle or not always wear tall boots, but they all agree that riding a twenty meter circle is a lot harder than it looks.

Dressage literally means training; that's our commitment. We try to improve, not to please a judge but to help our horses

I don't mean to sound biblical, but doesn't most disagreement boil down to good and evil? Isn't the challenge always how to live up to our best potential? I don't deny the dark side of dressage. I hate hyperflexion and cruelty; horses never stand a chance against human ego and greed. At the same time, watching a young girl and her horse quietly navigate a dressage test is a fine and beautiful thing.

Dressage will change for the good of horses. We'll demand it. Change comes slowly, but I hold hope because of this girl and her good horse. Amateur riders with a horse and a dream are the reason **I refuse to hand my beautiful sport over to the haters.**

Back at the Olympics, the woman who won the individual gold medal in dressage wore a helmet. She and her horse didn't have an easy start in the beginning; she needed courage and wits to match his fire and

sensitivity. They forged a partnership out of chaos. Sound familiar? For their final test she was nervous, aware of the distance they'd come and her desire to do well. But once they started moving, she said, *it was as if her horse held her hand.*

A gold medal rider in two Olympics is talking like a horse-crazy girl. That's my dressage, too.

MEMBERS CLASSIFIEDS

If members have anything that you would like to sell or advertise please let the editor know and I can arrange to put it in the newsletter for you.

Black Crosby Pirouette Dressage Saddle 17.5inch

Beautiful saddle handmade in England from lovely soft European leather.

Extremely comfortable with a secure, deep seat, large knee blocks, and nice wide panels to distribute weight across the horse's back. Has great stability and balanced girthing system for stability. Wide gullet channel for good spinal clearance and cut back pommel.

Is in excellent condition and has had very little use.

\$1,500. Pick up Kilsyth. Anita 0428 989 593



Black Trainers Master All Purpose Saddle 17 inch

This is a terrific all purpose saddle. Very soft and comfortable. Fully adjustable with Trainer's X-Change gullet system with easy tree size adjustment from narrow to extra wide (currently medium wide), and wide, flat flock filled panels. Three point girthing system that ensures a great even contact with panels.

This saddle is in great condition, and has been well maintained. It has small scratch on cantle which the saddler has said it could be smoothed out. Otherwise only light stirrup wear marks.

Saddle has just been reflocked and has had little use since - so has not compacted down to a particular shape.

\$1,000 Pick up Kilsyth. Anita 0428 989 593



FOR SALE

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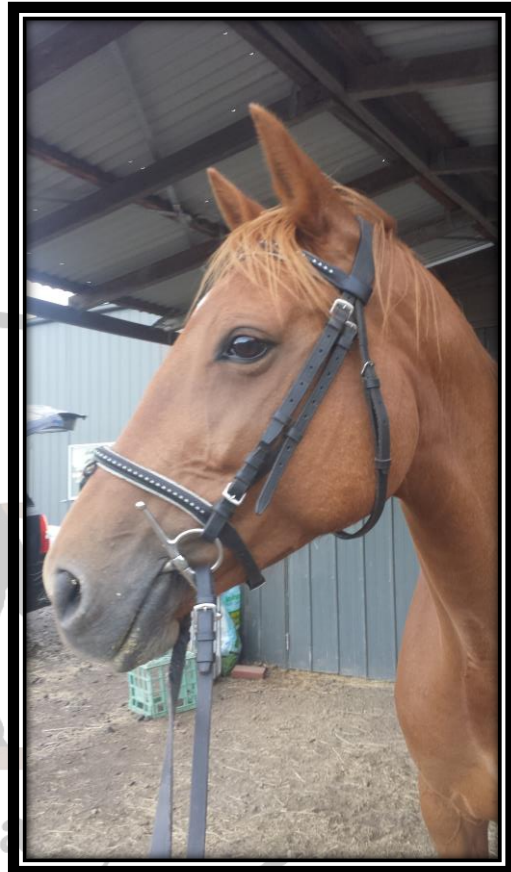
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\$4200 neg. to good home. No
beginners please.

Horse at Kangaroo Ground.

This is the horse in good winter condition.



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Most Items used by WEYV extensively

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1. Timber bridge and side rails. Marine carpet surface.
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2. Two large truck tires suitable for filling with soil . \$80
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3. 44 gallon drums 3-5 available \$50 the lot, suit clover
leave barrel obstacle

4. Slalom poles x10 ,brightly coloured base with stake
attached for ease of erection into ground \$90

5. Coloured pool noodles X10 \$40 the lot

6. Hoola Hoops X4 \$20 the lot

7. Stock Pen and “animals” \$85

8. Misc “Toys” \$60

10. Jump ends one set \$40

11. Timber table \$15 suit jug table obstacle

12. 3x Poles suited to hooking small hoops plus hoops \$40

13. Bollards x2 suit gate \$50

14. Marine carpet and varied footing material \$170

15. Trailer to carry it all \$100

Total Value -\$1370

TAKE EVERYTHING OFF MY HANDS IN ONE

TRIP

\$1000.00 FIRM


Karen 0414927785

karenjillings@gmail.com

PRIVATE LESSONS

Susie has advised that she is available for private lessons to club members should they be interested. These could be on an individual basis or a group situation.

Please contact her direct to book or for more details.



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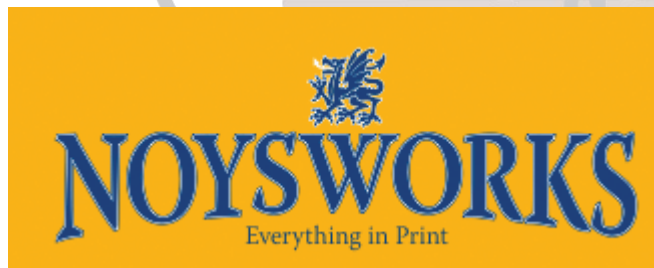


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