

# WORKING EQUITATION YARRA VALLEY



## NEWSLETTER

**MARCH 2017**

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Club Website – [www.workingequitationyarravalley.org](http://www.workingequitationyarravalley.org)

Club Facebook page – Working Equitation Yarra Valley

### Committee members

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TREASURER – Kerry Pitcher  
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EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR – Lindy Whitfort  
RALLY CO-ORDINATOR – Lisa Saunders  
INSTRUCTORS AND VENUES – Anna Gust  
UNIFORMS – Julia Colman  
OBSTACLE CO-ORDINATOR – Julia Colman  
FUNDRAISING – Fay Diamantakis  
RISK MANAGEMENT – Fay Diamantakis  
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# **PRESIDENT'S PONDERINGS**

I guess most of you have heard the saying "you get out of it what you put in"? and I think the local club/group/organisation is probably the best example of this at grass roots level.

Take our rallies for example. In March we had 3 members that were on rally duty and actually not riding at either of those rallies. They rocked up when required, some coming from absolute miles away, and leaving home early to ensure they were there to set up and to make sure the instructor/members had a hot coffee available. One of them even went out of her way to make a delicious cake and other goodies for us to enjoy. The others stayed back, cleaned up and did the poo patrol with no hesitation. There were always others offering help as well so it really does make the day run smoothly.

I went away from those rallies feeling really proud to be a member of this awesome club and I have made heaps of lovely new friends along the way.

Keep up the good work everyone.

## **LAST RALLY DAYS – MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>**

Our March rally days were very successful with 18 riders on Wednesday and 12 on Saturday.

Instructor for Wednesday was Natasha Jones who concentrated on Classical Dressage. Starting at 8am and finally finishing at 5.30pm she certainly earned her keep that day. The heat didn't deter any of us enjoying our lessons and although I offered to have the 8am lesson due to the fact that I'm one of the closest and can get there early I (and Anna) certainly benefitted from the early timeslot. In fact it was so cool that Natasha borrowed my jacket while I was riding as she didn't bring one of her own!

Saturday was Anna's turn to instruct and she offered lessons with the Garrocha and/or Pedro, her new 'bull'. I think Anna got the most workout over the day as Pedro needs some human legs to make him go! By all accounts everyone really enjoyed their lessons here as well, Anna taking the time to effectively explain the whys and wherefores of riding with the Garrocha and how to do 'cow work' with Pedro El Toro.

Marcy surprised us by making a beautiful morning tea for us consisting of a Gluten Free Choc mud cake and some apple puffs. Very spoilt indeed, and dare I say a precedent has been set?????





## **NEW CLUB POLO SHIRTS**



At each of the rallies there will be some 'samples' of our new polo shirts for members to try on prior to ordering and purchase. They come in sizes 8-10, 12-14, 16-18, 20-22, we have these sizes to try on but I think they may come in 24-26 if required. They are a small fitting so don't be alarmed if the size you would normally take won't fit! The shirts are only available in black but we are looking into a white alternative. Shirts will be a subsidized cost of \$25 each; an order form will also be available for you to put your name and size down.

If you have ordered your polo shirt it may be collected from Julia so contact her if you aren't able to get to a rally day to pick it up. Payment must have been received before collection.

## **RALLY FEEDBACK FORMS**

The committee has decided to ask members what they thought of their lesson/instructor/venue etc via a rally feedback form.

This form should be located on the lunch table upstairs on rally days and it would be appreciated if members could fill out a form each time they ride so that the results can be collated (in the form of one of Kerry's infamous spreadsheets) to help us make your riding experience better. It can be anonymous if preferred.

## **SO YOU WANT TO BE A RALLY CO-ORDINATOR???**

This can be a truly thankless task sometimes! Why do we do it we ask ourselves?

For the love of it?

Because no-one else will do it?

Because of the benefits?

It is very difficult to slot everyone into the one 1hr timeslot that seems to be the most popular, namely mid-morning when there are 10 people that want that 1 hour position. This happened for our March Wednesday rally and fortunately everyone was understanding and accepted other times

but it's just funny the way everyone thinks alike! It's a bit like when shopping at the supermarket on a Saturday, you can tell its 11am without even looking at the clock cos all of a sudden it's mayhem.

Please give a thought to Lisa (and others that also take on this arduous role).

Now that we have 50 members to arguably accommodate on rally days, to get your preferred place to ride you will need to book in EARLY, not leave it till the last minute, as you may very well be disappointed, or at the least put on the waiting list.

Lisa will happily take your booking form, and put your name on the list **BUT** if it doesn't correspond with a correlated **PAYMENT** your booking is not recognised until said payment is received. So moral of the story is DO IT ALL NOW! For example: you were the 1<sup>st</sup> person that Lisa receives a booking from, you are a little forgetful that day and don't get the payment through till the following week (cos that's when you finally do remember!) and because of that action (or lack thereof) you are now at the bottom and on a waiting list. Others, being a little more proactive, have beaten you to the prize.

When it comes to riding on rally day please, if you need to cancel **FOR WHATEVER REASON** let Lisa or a committee member know ASAP. This means that if a waiting list is on the go we can offer another member a chance to ride and the club doesn't lose money on an unfilled place.

Refunds will only be forthcoming if you have a Drs or Vet certificate, or if your place is filled by someone else.

So please, spare a thought for Lisa (and other hardworking committee members) we are doing our best to please everyone but sometimes there will be disappointment.

## **OBSTACLE CLINIC AND LESSON DAY**

Susie has been advertising the Introduction to WE clinic to be held on the morning of 18<sup>th</sup> March, as well as a more advanced clinic in the afternoon. The morning clinic is fully booked which indicates that more people want to know about WE and what our club can offer in the way of training for them and their horses.

Unfortunately the afternoon clinic, for whatever reason, wasn't to be as well attended, and consequently cancelled, so Susie has instead decided to offer lessons in the afternoon. More info below on the lessons.

It's a great opportunity to take advantage of the full course being set up for those that would like more practise around the obstacles.

**SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2017**

**FROM 1.00PM – 5PM**

**FULL OBSTACLE COURSE AVAILABLE FOR 8 RIDERS**

**VENUE : GRUYERE INDOOR**

**INSTRUCTOR: SUSIE WALKER**

### **Twin Share Lessons**

Cost: \$45.00/per hour WEYV Members, \$55.00/per hour non WEYV Member, 85.00/per hour uninsured guest: (this includes \$30.00 day insurance).

We have limited spots available, so the first 8 riders to email Lisa on [lisaandian@bigpond.com](mailto:lisaandian@bigpond.com), with clear funds in our bank account, will be put on the schedule.

Banking Details: **Bank:** Bendigo Bank Lilydale **BSB** 633-000 **Account:** 151477684 **Ref:**Surname

## RALLY DUTY

Our club is fortunate to have the use of the indoor arena and the beautiful PRIVATE property at Gruyere, we do not have working bees as such, only rally duty. This consists of supplying milk and some nibblies for morning tea, helping the instructor set up in the morning or pack away at the end of the day, ensuring the poo barrows are emptied and everything is in order before leaving. There are 2 of you on duty each rally and most members offer to help at some stage during the course of the day so it's not a hard job by any means.

Our next rally days are on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> APRIL.

## CLUB CALENDAR

For info and bookings email Lisa Saunders at [lisandian@bigpond.com.au](mailto:lisandian@bigpond.com.au)

Book early: Closing dates for bookings & payment is 5 days prior to event.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT RIDING PLACES FOR RALLIES ARE LIMITED SO DON'T LEAVE YOUR BOOKING TO THE LAST MINUTE OR YOU WILL BE DISAPPOINTED.**

Lisa will have a waiting list available for those that have missed out.

MONTH	VENUE	DAY	DATE	INSTRUCTOR
MARCH	GRUYERE	Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker (intro to WE clinic)
APRIL	GRUYERE	Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker
APRIL	GRUYERE	Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker
MAY	GRUYERE	Wednesday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Natasha Jones
MAY	GRUYERE	Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Jason McInnes
MAY	GRUYERE	Wednesday	31 <sup>st</sup>	Susie Walker
JUNE	GRUYERE	Saturday	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Susie Walker
JUNE	GRUYERE	Sunday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker (lightness clinic)
JULY	GRUYERE	Wednesday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker
JULY	GRUYERE	Saturday	8 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker
AUGUST	GRUYERE	Wednesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Natasha Jones
AUGUST	GRUYERE	Saturday	5 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker (obstacle course)



AUGUST	GRUYERE	Sunday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker (obstacle course)
SEPTMBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Anna Gust- Garoccha
SEPTMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Ro Jelbart
SEPTMBER	BANYANDAH	Saturday-Monday	16 <sup>th</sup> -18th	Steve Halfpenny (cattle work) Banyandah, Howlong NSW
OCTOBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Natasha Jones
OCTOBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	7 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker
OCTOBER	TO BE ADVISED	Wednesday	25 <sup>th</sup>	Social trail ride
NOVEMBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	1 <sup>st</sup>	Susie Walker
NOVEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	4 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker
NOVEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	18 <sup>th</sup>	Natasha Jones(clinic)
DECEMBER	GRUYERE	Wednesday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker dressage, Anna Gust Garrocha
DECEMBER	GRUYERE	Saturday	9 <sup>th</sup>	Susie Walker

## **GOODWILL WINES**

Our club has a charity account with this company, if any wines are ordered through Goodwill Wines and our account is nominated we will then benefit from the order by having cash paid into our account. Easy money, we already have \$70 odd credited – just for drinking wine!

Don't forget to order your special wines for our club fundraiser. Go to [www.goodwillwine.com.au](http://www.goodwillwine.com.au) to place your order.

## **EDITORS CHOICE READING**

### **A RECAP ON AACHEN 1995. THE BEGINING OF THE SLIPPERY SLOPE TO WHERE WE ARE *AT NOW*.**

Susan's Interview with Dr. Reiner Klimke At the Aachen CHIO July 1995

Susan: I was watching you as you schooled Biotop in the indoor arena this morning, and it was wonderful. I noticed you were working him in a fat snaffle, and I wondered if you could talk about the importance of working in the snaffle for upper level horses.

Klimke: I ride at home only once a week on the double bridle.

Susan: Do you mean for most of your Grand Prix horses, or for this one especially?

Klimke: All. I want to have them very light in my hand. It is easier when they are really "through", and they take the bit and take your hands. Then they are not afraid to come out to the double bridle.

Susan: Biotop seems to be very "out" to the bridle--there is not a lot of overflexing.

Klimke: And when he goes in extensions, the neck and frame extend too. And yet there are horses that make their extensions with overflexed necks and they score just as well...

Susan: Can you explain that?

Klimke: Well, when I tell you this, I don't want to sound jealous, but I live for classical riding. Classical riding means that the horse must go: that is, the energy must come through and the horse reaches forward. But the judges don't always mark accordingly. I don't mind; I know what is right. I have been in this sport for nearly 40 years.

Susan: I also saw today that you were doing a lot of work on the basic paces, and simple transitions.

Klimke: Yes. The horse must go forward and he must be happy. If the horse is happy and he trusts you, then you can teach him. If you punish him, that is wrong.

Susan: They never forget. Is there any place for punishment in riding?

Klimke: I hate to punish a horse. It must not be. It can happen to anybody. Sometimes you lose your patience; you try to make the horse a slave. But it is not right. Sometimes you see riders blowing up, even here, with top riders. I say to myself, "Poor horse, I wouldn't like to be in your stable."

Susan: Why does it happen? A lot of these riders will teach and talk about riding classically, and mean to do it, but then it is different here. Is it the pressure?

Klimke: I think everybody wants to win. Perhaps they think if they make a horse tired it will be submissive. Sometimes it may work, but if you really look you can see what is wrong. Some judges don't have a really good eye, and they judge by punishing mistakes, like too many or too few strides in a pirouette, for example.

Susan: Too much counting and not enough...

Klimke: Yes. The principle is: how is the walk, how is the trot, how is the canter, how is the acceptance of the bridle, how does the back work--all of these things. And in addition, the figures. But they deduct too much if a figure is not 100% okay. You see? If you make a pirouette and the horse really uses his hindquarters, and maybe the pirouette is a little big, you should not be given a 5.

Susan: That's a little extreme.

Klimke: Yes. It can be at least a 6, can also be a 7, when the horse really canters classically. Even if the circle was too large, remember that you must deduct from 10. The judge must be able to see the main achievement of a horse and rider, in a movement.

Susan: This brings up another question, and that is--there are some amazing equine athletes here, and some of them get a lot of points because of that. Where are the places in the Grand Prix test where the talent can't cover up the problems with the training?

Klimke: I look only at the way that the horse moves, in all three gaits. He must come from behind, with a swinging back. The head and neck must seek the bit. I hate it if the horse comes behind the vertical and stays there. When the horse is really "through", you must be able to open and close the frame, and keep him reaching into the bit. And right now, in the judging, in my opinion, this doesn't count for enough. But sooner or later, good riding will be rewarded. You must not lose your patience, you see. And don't give up.

Susan: I know that an international horse must have talent for piaffe and passage. At what point in a horse's life can you tell if that talent is there? Can you tell at the very beginning of training?

Klimke: No. But when you can easily do transitions with the horse--when he shows the ability to sit back--and the half halts go through, I like to see that. And there must be the desire to do the piaffe.

Susan: Whose riding do you admire?

Klimke: Right now?

Susan: Past or present--anybody.

Klimke: Okay. Nicole in her best time was very good. Of course, now her horse (Rembrant) is 18. But look back to Stockholm (World Equestrian Games, 1990) or Barcelona (Olympics, 1992). It was just the right, wonderful picture. Nice hands. Coming to nearly invisible aids. There are some other riders who are very good in a test--it is fantastic. And when you see the same person training...well if somebody else would do this, then the vet would probably say, "Come on, not here."

But they laugh and say, "So what. We're winning." Riders who ride for medals must try to be an example for classical riding. It is their duty. You cannot talk one way and ride another. Either you talk as you ride, or you explain why you don't.

Susan: Do you allow people to watch you school your horses at home?

Klimke: Absolutely. I have nothing to hide. I have seen riders make a fuss about spectators being allowed to watch the schooling at the World Cup Finals. This is wrong. The best thing for the horse is the open door.

Susan: What's wonderful is that you have demonstrated that classical riding can win.

Klimke: And I will not stay away from it.



## **MEMBERS ADVERTS**

I am happy to take adverts from members to appear here in this spot. I generally send out an email a week before the newsletter is due out calling for anyone that would like to make a contribution (of any sort)

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- As my boy has been semi-retired now for a number of years, I have had regular lessons however I can be a bit nervous nelly if horse starts playing up so I am looking for a sensible well-mannered horse with good ground manners to build my confidence, no buckers, rearers or biters.  
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## **MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT**

Again, here is a spot that you could tell us all about your fabulous ride last week on Neddy, with your friends. Or about a competition or clinic that you recently attended.

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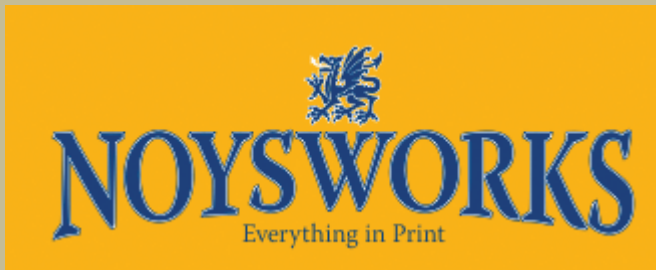


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