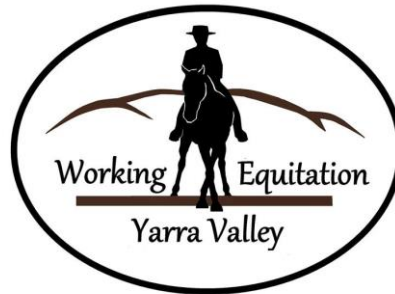


MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENTS PONDERINGS

Sarah Nickels and Anna Gust were our instructors for May, our last rally at Melrose for a few months (as we hibernate indoors now at Gruyere) and I've heard that those that went enjoyed both instructors.

Anna gave her 1st Garrocha pole lesson on the Sunday to 4 members, something a bit different and from all accounts it won't be the last! You may have opened the proverbial Pandora's box here Anna? What exactly is a Garrocha you may ask?

The **Garrocha** is a lance or pole, it comes in different lengths depending on what it is being used for. Centuries ago it was used as a weapon during the wars. In Spain it is used by the vaquero (cowboys) on farms to move cattle around rather than roping, and to help bring stock in. It is used to keep the bulls off the horses while riding around the pastures doing stock checks.

The fighting bulls are usually bred by very wealthy land owners and live in large paddocks, hence the reason why the riders carry the **Garrocha**. On occasions it is used in the bull ring as part of the performance.

A shorter version is also used as one of the obstacles to be scored on, in Working Equitation. Training for this part of the competition helps tremendously with rider skill, balance and seat.

It has now developed into an artistic skillful performance. The pole is made from different materials nowadays. Originally it was made from wood and is from 12 – 14 feet long depending on the height of the horse. It takes years to train a horse to its full potential with the Art of

Garrocha (likened to training for dressage, reining etc.). Without the horse having full fitness and correct alignment it will break down and will be unable to make the tight manoeuvres correctly and gracefully, which is Art of **Garrocha** – discipline.



MEMBERS QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Heard at the last meeting – “I feel a spreadsheet coming on”,
Guess who????????????

LEVEL ASSESSMENT

Susie has organised for us to have a Level Assessor - Karen Mulder, at our club rally on Wednesday 1st June.

This rally will be held at indoor at Maurice Road Gruyere Indoor.

Please let her know asap if you would like to be level assessed at this rally, and what times you are available - so we can organise the times.

STYLE OBSTACLE TEST PRACTISE DAY

The club is holding a members only day, to allow us to have a practise at riding a full obstacle course but to also to get the benefit of having it judged. Then we go back and re-ride the course, hopefully bearing in mind the judges comments, for a better round.

This will be a fun day, no plaiting or washing of horses but uniform must be worn.

Date: Saturday 18th June

Venue: Gruyere Indoor, 33 Maurice Road Gruyere.

Australian National Working Equitation Ltd. (ANWE) Rules

Ride two rounds of the Obstacle Course – one after the other

And have judge's feedback after each round.

COST: \$45 for 2 rounds at the same level. (Includes judge's feedback).
If time permits - riders may also ride a level above.

WORKING EQUITATION TESTS (ANWE) Obstacles - Style Phase:

Introductory – walk/trot (HRCav level 5 or 4)

Preliminary – walk/trot/canter (HRCav level 4 or 3)

Intermediate – walk/trot/canter (HRCav level 3, 2 or 1)

Susie is in the process of putting the details together and emails of the specifics will be out shortly. To book a place for this fun day please head to our online booking form once details are finalised.

RALLY DUTY ROSTER

Rally Duty this Month: June

Wednesday 1st Rally: Lindy Whitfort/Helen Sharp

Sunday 5th Rally: Jason McInness/Andrea Rourke

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



EXTREME WEATHER WARNINGS

A few items were clarified at the last committee meeting about extreme weather days.

If the weather forecast is 34 deg or above, a TFB day or Code Red day the rally will be cancelled for the safety of all involved. Quite a few of our members have to travel a good distance to come to a rally and the committee felt that not only the riding of our horses at rally is a risk to their health in extreme heat but also the float travel for those horses coming to, and leaving the rally could leave them at risk of overheating.

If it looks likely to be an extreme weather day it will be **YOUR** responsibility to check your email, Facebook or Txt sources 36 hours before every rally to ensure that it hasn't been cancelled.

IE: Wednesday rally – check on Monday night

- * Saturday rally – check on Thursday night
- * Sunday rally – check on Friday night

If in doubt please contact a committee member.

Lessons may also be modified according to weather and/or riding surface at the time.

PIC – and what is it?

Property owners in Victoria who have horses residing on their land are required to have a Property Identification Code (PIC).

The PIC's have been in since July 2010 and The Department of Environment & Primary Industries allocates these PIC's free of charge - see attached links.

It is not a case of big brother syndrome but having a PIC in an emergency situation can help the authorities to help you in times of need. I.e., knowing there are horses on your property in a bushfire scenario can help in the recovery afterwards in form of feed and water when no one else is able to get through (including owners).

Have a look at their website and apply if you require one for your property.

DEPI - Horses

All Victorian property owners who have horses residing on their property must have a Property Identification Code (**PIC**).

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/livestock/horses>

CLUB FUNDRAISER

Many thanks to Carola for her fundraising efforts with bulbs from Tesselaars. The 6-7 people that did put in a order and purchased their bulbs contributed \$190 to the club coffers so thank you to those people.

As mentioned in last months newsletter Carola has investigated another venture to help raise funds for our small club.

Remember these fundraisers go a small way to help pay for our rallies. All our rallies run at a loss, mainly due to having to pay for grounds hire, and instructors of course. So any contribution in the way of fundraising efforts by our members goes to a good cause!

Goodwill Wines

Goodwill Wines offer to set up a label for our club for nothing and in return anybody that orders wines from them can ask for bottles to have our labels put on them and we then get the fundraising profits from those bottles.

It is still in the set-up phase but when it's 'live' and ready to go we will be letting you all know so that you can go your hardest and order lots of wine (drinking responsibly of course!)

The following is an excerpt from Goodwill Wines web page.

Goodwill Wine is dedicated to sourcing the best quality boutique wine from independent wineries across Australia.

We are not about making money from bulk, cheap wine. Our commitment is to quality, which can mean at times we may have as few as ten cases of a particular wine if that is all that was available. Our aim is to remove all risk when buying wine and our confidence in our selection means we can always offer a 100% money back guarantee.

Goodwill Wine is a licensed fundraiser and as a business made possible from the goodwill of others, pledges **50% of the profit** (a minimum of \$20 per case) from your purchase to the charity or non-profit organisation of your choice.

Our service is easy to use and is absolutely cost-free to any charity or non-profit organisation that you nominate. Just click on **Our Wine** to peruse our selection, or go straight to **Our Charities/NPO's** to see our illustrated labels. If we don't have a label for the cause you wish to support, choose our **Goodwill Label**, and designate any of the 700,000 registered organisations in Australia to receive 50% of the profit from your purchase. It's simple: Good Wine, Good Price, Goodwill.

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

| | | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|
| June - | Wednesday 1 st | Club rally | Gruyere |
| | Sunday 5 th | Club rally | Gruyere |
| July - | Wednesday 6 th | Club rally | Gruyere |
| | Saturday 9 th | Club rally | Gruyere |
| August - | Wednesday 3 rd | Club rally | Gruyere |
| | Saturday 6 th | Club rally | Gruyere |
| September - | Wednesday 7 th | Club rally | Gruyere |
| | Saturday 10 th | Club rally | Gruyere |
| October - | Wednesday 5 th | Club rally | Melrose Farm |

| | | | |
|------------|----------------------------|------------|--------------|
| | Sunday 9 th | Club rally | Melrose Farm |
| November - | Wednesday 2 nd | Club rally | Melrose Farm |
| | Sunday 6 th | Club rally | Melrose Farm |
| | Wednesday 16 th | AGM | |
| December - | Wednesday 7 th | Club rally | Melrose Farm |
| | Sunday 11 th | Club rally | Melrose Farm |

MORE INSIDE LEG? from Susie Walker

When a horse is falling in on a circle or corner "more inside leg" is rarely a solution, and in fact can make it worse if we also fall in with that pushing leg.

A horse who 'falls in' to the left, (some say "drops the left shoulder") tends to put more weight on his left shoulder, place his head to the outside (right) and swing his quarters to the right bulging his belly into our left leg. Like a banana bend but the opposite bend to the curve we are on. (i.e. circles to the left are difficult or become smaller, while to right they seem easier or become bigger).

If we push more with the inside leg to physically force the horse to move over, we can also become part of the problem. We can better become part of the solution if we think about the balance mechanics of what is happening.

The horse cannot be blamed for being born "right bent". But we can help him find better balance by teaching him various rein aids and in particular the effectiveness of "an indirect neck rein" to realign his balance more equally with the right shoulder.

Diagram: Neck rein actions (pictured below from Philippe Karl's Book - "Twisted Truths of Modern Dressage") are useful to create balance & straightness.

You could try this, it works, but it needs to be supported with equal light tension in both reins, only upward or sideways actions of the hands, (not backwards, not pulling) try to keep the middle of the bit in the middle of the mouth, and at the same time your weight aids must assist the balance you want.

The horse needs to be flexed away from the direction you want him to travel - i.e. in counter bend. Why? Because the neck is like a lever, transfer weight opposite to the way the head is, and when the head is bent to the left, the horse physically finds it easier to weight the right shoulder and go that way.

The balance/weight aids are very important. If the horse is falling inwards to the left, putting weight on his left shoulder, then we can help him correct this by transferring more of our weight to the right shoulder - stay upright, but sit / balance yourself to the right with more weight in the right stirrup and right seat bone. To keep us balanced he is then more inclined to "get under our weight" which means he will follow our weight and move to the right. Bingo - praise and reward with a little break when you feel the shoulders move towards the outside. And keep repeating, and rewarding, until the horse understands what the neck rein and the change of balance mean.

When a horse falls in going left, often our first instinct is to turn the horse's head to the outside to turn its nose to the right, and back on our line. This doesn't work, because it puts even more weight to the inside and effectively causes the horse to fall in more.

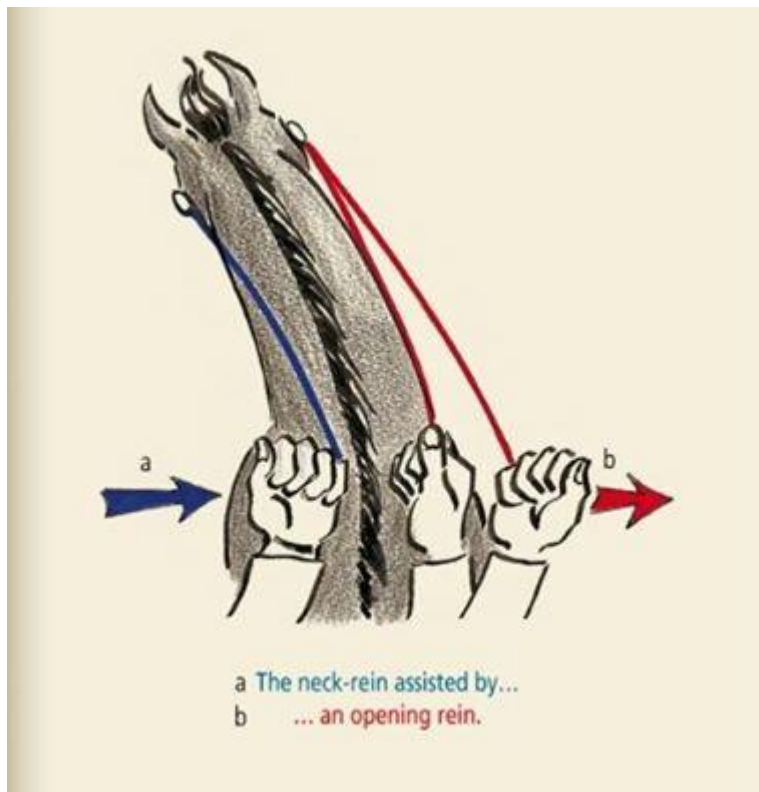
What does work is to focus on taking the shoulders and the withers to the right, using the inside neck rein and outside opening rein to keep the head and neck bent to the left. The bio mechanical leverage of the horse's neck naturally becomes its own solution.

A good pattern for this training is a 5m loop (zig zag) along the long side. So say you are on the left rein, start on the track in walk at K. Come in 5m at E, then with the sideways actions of equal neck reins, and the weight aids, ask the shoulders to yield back to the track at H. Keep the neck bent to the left, but send the shoulders and withers to the right. You stay parallel to the long side but it's NOT a leg yield, so don't be tempted to use the left leg - as that talks to the hind quarters and will muck up your balance. This is a shoulder yield - asking the horse to take wider steps to the right and across to the track. Progress to trot and canter. It's a nice feeling, and easy in trot to use the weight aids while you are in the air.

Another pattern is to ride a figure of 8 keeping the SAME bend & flexion, but changing the direction. i.e. one circle in true bend and one circle in counter bend. This way you will really feel how your balance leads the

way and the neck reins control the shoulders via the counter-bend. It's a breakthrough to lateral work and superior balance in all work.

If you can follow this you will be amazed, as I was, at the simple effectiveness of this time honoured tool for training straightness, balance and ease of riding.



MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT

CLUB TRIP TO BANYANDAH



Julia & Chester in the water



Alita and Susie over the log



Chester & Julia in full flight mode!

Susie & Alita



Julia & Amanda at the watering hole

A picnic by the river

Working Equitation
Yarra Valley

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.

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.

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.

Susie Walker

Equine Encounters

Classical Riding Teacher

EA Coach

ANWE Accredited Working Equitation Judge & Trainer

Available for Clinics & Lessons

0411 098 462

walker.susieg@gmail.com

I am organising a 3 day clinic to be run by Steve Halfpenny of Light Hands Equitation. It will be held at Banyandah and I already have a few club members attending which is wonderful.

We will have the opportunity to work on the quiet cattle up there so this should be a fabulous clinic and something a little different.

STEVE HALFPENNY CLINIC

At **BANYANDAH**, HOWLONG NSW **13th, 14th & 15th September 2016**



Steve Halfpenny has been working with horses for over 30 years. He currently travels extensively delivering clinics in Australia, New Zealand, UK and Germany. Steve's key focus has been to find an easier way for the horse and rider to communicate. He has been one of Equitana Australia's successful 'Way of the Horse' contenders and in 2013 took on the incredible challenge of training a wild Waler horse in Sydney Equitana's Waler Legacy, with amazing results. Steve has also teamed up with Manolo Mendez and has done demonstration segments at Equitana in Melbourne in 2014.

Steve's training methods are extremely successful in developing a safe and relaxed horse, whether for pleasure riding or high level competition in all disciplines. Steve teaches riders to have a much lighter contact while enhancing responsiveness between horse and rider and building confidence.

You are invited to what promises to be an amazing 3 days where Steve will part with his bounty of horsemanship knowledge, to help us have a better relationship with our equine partner.

Students will get to put this foundation horsemanship to practical application, working with the quiet cattle on the property.

Riders will be divided into 2 groups each day. This gives the student plenty of opportunity to ride and watch, thus enhancing your skills through observation of others.

Rider numbers limited, fence sitters very welcome.

COSTS - \$360 for the 3 days for a rider position, \$20 a day for fence sitting/\$50 for 3 days

Payments required in full by 15th August.

For enquiries, bookings and bank details for payments please contact Helen Sharp on 0419030137, or email helenjsharp@bigpond.com.

FOR SALE



Zaldi 18 inch Grand Prix 2000 All Purpose Saddle.

Fully mounted, includes stirrup leathers and irons

Good used condition. Does not fit my young horse. \$200

Debrah Clow. Ph.0458 651 957

WANTED

Carola is looking for her next equine partner. If you know of a suitable horse please let her know.

For lease or lease with option to buy would be great, but if THE ONE comes along, I'll consider purchasing straight out.

I am an experienced horse woman and intermediate rider - just not as fit and 'gung-ho' as I used to be in my teens and twenties. I am also an RDA coach.

My current horse mate has some soundness issues which unfortunately requires him to be spelled for the rest of the year and then I still don't know if he'll be sound. So I'm looking for a new riding partner who is ready to go.

I'm interested in dressage (School of Lightness - Legereté, Philip Karl philosophy), Working Equitation, trail and beach rides, groundwork and play and just hanging out.

Looking for a real partner. My philosophy is love, respect and kind assertiveness. The welfare of the horse is always my first concern. The horse I'm looking for needs to be safe, can be forward but absolutely no buck, bolt etc. And sound. I've had too much bad luck with unsound horses in the last year or so. Looking for 15.2hh plus (must be chunky at that height), 6-13 yrs. I like Clydies, Percherons, etc and their Xxs, Cobs, etc. No TB OTT or STB.

If you think you might have something that fits the bill, I'd love to hear from you. My mob is 0400584467. Cheers Carola

OUR SPONSOR



Woori Yallock
& District
Community Bank®
Branch

 **Bendigo Bank**

OUR SUPPORTERS



Eastside Mitsubishi

"We're on your side at Eastside"

303 Whitehorse Rd, Nunawading, Vic, 3131

Ph: (03) 9878 7333 - Fax: (03) 9878 6149



Noysworks

Unit 1/114 Warren Road,
Mordialloc,
Vic 3195

T: 03 9588 1230

F: 03 9588 0408

M: 0418 988 600

E: peter@noysworks.com



17 Lawler Lane

Coldstream 3770

PH: 03 9739 1669

www.horseinthebox.com.au



Delivering a healthy future

www.organicorigins.com.au



Horseland Lilydale



Ranger Floats

<http://www.rangerstockfloats.com.au/>



476 Maroondah Hwy, Lilydale, Vic 3140
Tel 03 9739 6822, Fax 03 9739 6823

"HANDFORGED WROUGHT-IRON"

Factory 3/ 39 Power Road,
Bayswater

Gary Butters 0402 657 793

For all structural steel/aluminium welding and quality handcrafted iron products.



Yarra Valley

CLUB POSTAL ADDRESS

: - PO Box 394 Pantom Hill 3759

WEBSITE www.workingequitationyarravalley.org

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President – Helen Sharp helenjsharp@bigpond.com

Vice President - Vacant

Newsletter – Helen Sharp helenjsharp@bigpond.com

M'ship Secretary – Susie Walker walker.susieg@gmail.com

Treasurer – Kerry Pitcher kerry.pitcher@gmail.com

Rallies – Lisa Saunders lisaandian@bigpond.com.au

Instructors & Venues – Anna Gust annagust37@hotmail.com

Uniforms – Julia Colman colmanj@southernphone.com.au

Obstacles - Julia Colman

Fundraising – Fay Diamantakis fdiamantakis@optusnet.com.au

Risk M'ment – Fay Diamantakis

Fundraising – Carola Sahler carolasahler@optusnet.com.au

Minutes Secretary – Carola Sahler

Events – Lindy Whitfort lindy.whitfort@bigpond.com

Website Consultant – Denise McKay Denisemckay76@hotmail.com

General Committee – Debrah Clow alfranzpark@bigpond.com

General Admin - Andrew Feher feher.andrew@gmail.com



Working Equitation
Yarra Valley