



Round the Traps

March 2011

Discipline Convenors

CDE

Margie Morgan
Ph/Fax: (03) 5030 2593
margmor@y7mail.com

Dressage

Christine Turnbull/Gwyn Wise
Christine: (03) 5281 5068
Gwyn: (03) 5267 2995
christeneturnbull@netspace.net.au

Showing

Kim Filmer
(03) 9716 2695
remlif@optusnet.com.au

Pleasure/Historical/Endurance

Margie Bowen
Email: wattawiza24@bigpond.com

Young Drivers Program

Janice Gorick
Ph: (03) 5942 8485
Email: goricks@nex.net.au

Equipment Trailer

Dick Harkness
(03) 5429 5750

Publicity/Website/Newsletter

Janice Gorick
130 McInnes Rd
Tynong North 3813
Ph: (03) 5942 8485
Email: goricks@nex.net.au

'RTT Deadlines

March issue – 17 February
June issue – 17 May
September issue – 17 August
December issue – 17 November

Contributions in MS Word or PDF format
or send by snail mail please

ACDS Victorian Branch

News

Important

Please be aware it is now compulsory
'That all junior persons (being under 18 years of age) driving or riding in a carriage must wear protective head gear, designed for equestrian use, whilst at an ACDS activity.'

Driven Dressage Grading Points for 2010-2011 are now available under Disciplines - Dressage on the Vic Branch website.

Sadly the carriage driving world lost a great horseman when Ron King passed away. The VB President attended Ron's funeral on behalf of both Oaklands and Vic Branch. A tribute will be appearing in the June Journal.

Delegates have been asked to source ideas from members regarding the VB's 30th Anniversary in 2012, some suggestions were pin/hat badge/vehicle plate/etc.

.....
ACDS – Victorian Branch website:

www.vicnet.net.au/~acds/vb/

Federal ACDS website:

www.acds.org.au



The Editor & the ACDS – VB Inc. A8407Y wish to state that the opinions expressed by writers in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee but represent the personal views of the writers.

Executive Committee

2010-2011

President

Peter Lee
80 Callaway Dve
Mickleham, 3064
Ph: (03) 9745 2776
pvee1@bigpond.com

Vice President

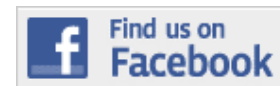
Rodney Lane
795 Bacchus Marsh Rd,
Lara, 3212
Ph: 0434 600 439
duckpondslane@bordnet.com.au

Secretary

Margie Morgan
PO Box 181
Nyah West, 3595
Ph/Fax: (03) 5030 2593
margmor@y7mail.com

Treasurer

Peter Harkness
53 Sheehans Rd
Romsey 3434
(03) 5429 5750
peter.harkness@lh.com.au



Federal ACDS President

Trevor Brand
P O Box 327
Yenda, NSW, 2681
(02) 6968 1015
trevor.brand@det.nsw.edu.au

Club drive at Roseneath

The April drive for the Eastern Vic club was held at Roseneath Caravan Park Meerlieu on Sunday 10th April and a few members thought it would be a great chance to get some extra driving in and camp for the weekend.

Two members arrived on Friday and had a quiet drive around the tracks of the park in the afternoon. After an early night another three members arrived Saturday morning, it was decided to have an early lunch then a drive. We had a lovely drive down the dirt road towards McLennans Strait and back into the park and as it was a warm autumn day we took the ponies down to the lake and of course we all had a swim. The water was a bit chilly at first but after that initial shock it was very pleasant. Two ponies loved the water so much splashing around even trying to roll which was interesting. We had tea around the open fire and a great night was had by all as we caught up on each others news. Off we went to bed and it started to rain, we all though bother that's the end of tomorrow. Checking the rain gauge on Sunday morning showed 15ml but the rain had stopped Yeah. So after a breakfast of bacon and eggs another three members arrived and we all started harnessing up.

Leaving the camping area we had seven drivers and one rider, which is a good turn out. We started out together but ended up in two groups, heading towards McLennans Strait again, no traffic but we did encounter some big kangaroos. The ponies weren't fussed about them so all was calm. The track closer to the Strait gets very sandy so we can only go a certain way before those with rubber wheels have to turn around. Motor bike wheeled carts are fine. We came back into the park and there are tracks all though which we can drive on. As there has been so much rain this year the bush has grown but the park owner had slashed a track thru for us. The tracks twist and turn and you never quite know what is around the next bend but it is great fun ducking and weaving along the sand tracks. There is 100 acres that we can drive around and we could have kept going for a lot longer but tummies started rumbling and other members started arriving for lunch and our general meeting.

We had a nice lunch around the fire and an interesting meeting with lots discussed and planned. One of which will be our AGM back at Roseneath with a camp weekend. We are all looking forward to coming back to camp again

Mrs. Asefetida Wearybottom Missing Foul Play Feared

She was last seen driving her matched set of Appaloosa Shetlands last Tuesday. The ponies returned to the barn and a maroon hat with aqua ribbon, a green shoe and a freshly lit cheroot of her favorite cigar brand were found on her route.

Her husband is concerned, and through tears asked,
"Do you know anyone looking to buy a pony-sized gig?"

Southern Cross Harness Club 20th year celebrations

Southern Cross Harness Club Inc. members enjoyed their 20th year celebrations on the 12th and 13th March 2011 held at Napier Park Won Wron.

Previous members were invited to join in the celebrations and it was wonderful to catch up with them and talk about the memorable activities and drives that were held in the past.

On Saturday the 12th there was a display of photos taken over the years and videos of the Fun days which included the fun competitions which the prizes were bars of chocolates. The delicious cake was made by Sue Robertson. It consisted of 3 varieties, white mud cake, vanilla and choc honey, each for a different section of the carriage and depicted the Southern Cross Harness Club emblem.

Sunday the 13th was a display of the various types of horse and donkey drawn vehicles and harnesses. Robyn Jones gave a short explanation of what they were made of and the size of equines that would be used with it. There were carts for miniatures to the larger horses. On display were also 4 shafted vehicles to be used with a pair of equines. This type was used in the previous century.

Jenny McNab brought a Riding for the Disabled cart and wheelchair to give an explanation and demonstration with Heather Bradbury on how the disabled were loaded onto the cart. They also explained on the various types of clients that loved to go out in these carts and what was required to help them drive the equines.

Robyn with other owners of the horses and ponies on display talked of the types of breeds represented. (Jenny O'Bree, Catharina Versteeg and Naomi Dundon) The some of the members explained on the various types of harnesses and what they were made of. Heather had her new Dorsel Hitch harness and I for one would like to see how it works.

After a wonderful lunch prepared by Robyn and Charlie Jones helped by Tony Versteeg rides were given to some of the local public.

Southern Cross Harness Club Inc. members would like to thank Robyn and Charlie Jones for allowing them to hold their special celebration on their property. Also Sue Robertson for the exceptional cake she made.

Catharina

@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@@

Thank You!

I wish to thank ACDS Vic members who have wished me well after my accident. 2 broken ankles for me and leg injuries for my harness pair, Praze and Beeble.

Beeble now looks like little has ever happened to him, his twin brother Praze still has a way to go. I'm progressing well with one foot but slowly with t'other. Praze and I will see who mends first?!

I hope to get back in action this winter or very soon after. So see you in the spring?!

Jill (Cawsey)

Benalla Driving Club

Equitana Melbourne 2010

Once again the equestrian spectacular that is Equitana has come and gone from Melbourne. With many visitors coming to shop, just as many came to watch the various equestrian disciplines in action, carriage driving being just one of them.

On Thursday, seven drivers and their horses/ponies took part in the Single Obsthon where they sweep around a cones course which incorporates marathon obstacles against the clock to give spectators a taste of combined driving, the driving equivalent of eventing; this event was won by Andrew Pollock driving 'Clyde'. Junior drivers were represented by Jessica Haslau driving 'Lenson Park Sovereign' who placed second.

Later in the day, Michelle Jones ferried the Channel 10 weather reporter around as he presented the weather live from Equitana.

Friday was a busy day for carriage driving with three events planned. First up was the Pairs Obsthon, which had a good crowd of spectators cheering on the competitors. There were a few hiccups with a component of the obstacle knocked down by two competitors which added penalties to their scores. The event was won by Tina Marshall driving 'Cherrytree Foxglove' & 'Pricklebush Blackberry'

Then it was time to find out what eventers' do for fun??.....they take part in the ACE Group Jump & Drive! Seven combinations of eventers and pair drivers took part where the riders jump a showjump course and then dismount and jump on the back of a 4 wheel combined driving vehicle which is then driven around a cones course incorporated in the jumps. Each rail or cone down incurred a time penalty. The winners were Andrew Pollock driving 'Tiki' & 'Poppy' and William Fox-Pitt riding 'GV Top of the Line'

At the end of the Jump & Drive, Clayton Fredericks was interviewed by Channel 9's 'Wide World of Sport' whilst on Rachel Haslau's carriage.

The final event for the day was the Driven Dressage to Music. Junior driver, Stacey Rhodes, did a fantastic job in front of such a large crowd driving one of her mother's pony pair 'Tya Sequin' to the soundtrack of the 'Man from Snowy River'.

There may have been no more competitions for the carriage drivers on Saturday, but horse breaker and combined driver Wayne Armstrong's demonstrations were very well attended. Wayne started by driving his lovely team of Welsh A ponies into the demonstration area, unharnessed and then proceeded to demonstrate how he mouths horses. He then progressed to long reining a single pony and invited a spectator to try her hand. Next Wayne demonstrated long reining a pair and a tandem. He then put the pony team to the carriage explaining what he was doing and why and drove a few rounds of the arena at the trot and canter. Throughout the demonstration he explained the different methods of holding the reins, ie. as per a rider would and the German "Achenbach" rein handling system. At the end of the session, Wayne answered many questions about carriage driving and the ACDS trade stand had a large influx of visitors to the stand after the clinic finished.

Overall we were overwhelmed by the positive response we received from visitors to Equitana, many had come looking for carriage driving information and to see our events. Enquiries came from all the Australian States and New Zealand with many fully intending on joining up with their local clubs as either an associate or a full member.

Special thanks to Peter & Dick Harkness who built the courses and timekepted, Angela Hennel for being our MC, Geoff & Janis Craven and Kim Filmer for helping 'on the ground' both prior and after the competitions.

Also thanks to Definitive Events for inviting us to participate at Equitana and provide prize money and the eventers who we hope had fun in the Jump & Drive.

(Full results are on the Equitana website)

Photos are available: Kangra Photo Graphics: <http://users.chariot.net.au/~kangra/>

Julie Wilson Equestrian Photography <http://www.jwep.net/>

Video can be seen on Youtube:

Clayton Fredericks Jump and Drive at Equitana 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qy-rwxt3EdU&feature=related>

William Fox-Pitt wins Jump and Drive at Equitana 2010 <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R83eJP9FDKU>

Australian New Zealand exchange December 2010

It was a great experience to travel to New Zealand and spend a fortnight driving as an exchange driver with the New Zealand Carriage Driving Association.

The generosity of the hosts was just amazing, with all the horses provided for the Australian drivers of a high calibre. The hospitality didn't stop with providing good horses, carriages, harness, transport and accommodation. As guests of Alison Cameron and Noel Cooper we visited some amazing gardens, shared time with their friends, family and neighbours, watched world cup showjumping and even went to a night of sprint car action, spending time in the pit area and cheering on the Kiwis against the visiting Americans.

Being used to the delights of Section A Welsh ponies, it was a large leap of faith to be put behind a magnificent, impeccably trained horse by the name of "Picasso". At six years old, Picasso had only been driven by Alison, and the trust she showed allowing me to drive this handsome giant was truly overwhelming.

Mark and I arrived late on a Friday afternoon and were whisked straight off to a club weekend, where Noel had already taken the horses and set up camp. To be honest, I was apprehensive and somewhat scared – I didn't want to ruin Alison's magnificent horse, and it was so huge, I didn't want to ruin me! Picasso took having a stranger take the lines with good grace, but it was definitely a "get to know you" weekend. Just plaiting his mane took twice the time to plait one of my little ponies, and having to learn multiple dressage and cones tests for the first day kept the pressure well and truly on. Sunday's mini marathon was a beautiful drive – those mountains, that green grass! We got to play in the obstacles and Picasso decided I was worthwhile after all.

Once we hit Alison's, we got into a nice routine. Work Picasso in the morning, then the rest of the day for sight seeing, socialising, and enjoying not being at work. Training was a combination of dressage work on the farm and beach driving for fitness, speed and fun. Here Picasso and I learned to trust each other at speed, using driftwood for obstacles and the sea for pure pleasure.

The middle weekend of our stay we drove at the Feilding I, A & P Association Show and Picasso really shone. The final competition of the day was a cones course, and I thought what a great chance to practice for the CDE the following weekend. We had a great time cantering forwardly through the cones, with an extra circle when I dropped one of the reins and had to ask Mark to hold me in. The Kiwis had a great laugh – I'd never thought to ask whether it was a speed or fault competition, just assuming wrongly that it was a speed competition. Still, we'd held it together enough to get the red ribbon, which in New Zealand is first place.

Another lovely week of driving, with a few days away at Taupo sight seeing, then competition nerves in the lead up to the Tangimoana CDE. How great it was to see the other Aussies at Tangimoana, and to have many of the Kiwi faces familiar after two weekends of competition.

Having enjoyed balmy, fine weather for our entire stay, the Saturday dawned with sheeting rain and wild, strong winds. One of the Kiwi competitors with poor eyesight couldn't even read the numbers on the cones through her glasses, but we all had the same conditions as it didn't let up all day. Definitely weather to grit your teeth and just do it.

We had an official marathon inspection late on the Saturday, which brought back fond memories of when we starting driving, especially at Nyah. Lots of up and down and hoping we wouldn't get lost the following day. Section A ended through the grounds of an historic homestead with impressive gardens, a privilege to drive through. Lovely open obstacles, marked differently from ours so we had to be on our toes not to eliminate ourselves.

A great feast for Saturday night's dinner was enjoyed by all, with chatting on into the wee hours. A quick visit to the toilet before bed ended up a rescue mission for a little boy who had locked himself in the toilet, but couldn't unlock it as there was a huge bug in the way. Poor lad was sobbing hysterically, so we tried

gentle reason and encouragement with no luck. Mark then took out a louver window from the rear and tried to talk him out, before telling him loudly he had to get up and open the door and do it now. Well, it worked – but now Mark is hoping the boy isn't scarred for life by not just the big bug but the big man yelling at him through the window.

The marathon was tough, but a great drive. The weather had once again calmed to make it enjoyable and the pure joy of a fast, responsive horse in the obstacles was clear and bright.

I did learn a lot about myself on this trip – how to accept such generous hospitality, how to accept my frailties as a person and driver, and simply how to have fun. It was great to have Mark along to share the experience, and to join in with the life of Alison and Noel. The donkey competitors were just amazing at each event, and did their job with gusto and verve.

I'd like to thank the ACDS and NZCDS, along with our hosts Alison Cameron and Noel Cooper, for the opportunity to immerse ourselves in a wonderful experience.

Karen Rogers

Horse Keeping and Land Management Perpetual Calendar

Horse owners are increasingly becoming aware of the need to manage their horses, and the land on which they live, in a sustainable manner.

Not only for the benefit of the horses – and perhaps saving long-term costs of weed spraying and hand feeding – but also to promote water quality and biodiversity and to have a more attractive visual amenity on the landscape.

A link can also be made between healthy land and healthy horses. By understanding the risks horses can have to the environment and then selecting appropriate management methods, ailments such as greasy heel, sand colic and grass founder will be less prevalent – if not eliminated.

Check out the Horse South Australia calendar for some pointers at

http://www.horsesa.asn.au/zdocument/file/539/calendar_page_1_to_6.pdf

FOR SALE

Harness pony with new harness and jogger.

To a very good home only. Ginger is a handsome chestnut harness pony. 10.3 hands. Very strong and willing, has been driven by children and adults.

Under saddle, too strong for very young riders, okay on the lead rein. but a harness home is preferred. Has done pleasure drives and a few shows.

With an experienced driver could do alot more! Or a very safe pony for a novice driver.

Is happy in paddock on his own, doesn't crave for company and will work well after weeks of paddock life.

Has to be carefully watched with spring grazing - so needs a jenny craig paddock.

Owners have moved on to other committments - feel he's wasted doing nothing - and want the best for him.

Brand new harness - not used yet. Smart blue and cream jogger.

\$1000 in total - ono

Call or email Jill Cawsey for more information, 03 5766 6439 skyblue_jc@westnet.com.au
(photos available on request)

LUCINDA (1994- 2011)

Rhyll Sir James X Dwyfor Natasha

Lucinda was bred by Kevin Dempsey and became part of the Hennel family when she was a 2yo. She wasn't broken to harness until a 4 yo and then the fun began! There have been numerous 'incidents' which have made Lucinda unforgettable to everyone who knew her. Her competition record had it's shining moments and some not so bright. 1999 was a good year for the young Lucinda, placing 4th at the Vic CDE champs. Then there was Equitana at Werribee, with one of the highlights of Lucy doing most of the walk section on her hind legs! 2000 had Lucy competing in CDEs and winning a couple of res champs at the National show driving champs. The 2001 National CDE champs were held at Camden NSW, where Lucy & Peter performed brilliantly & won the Novice pony class. Later that year she had her only appearance at RMS, with a 2nd lady's hackney pony & 4th novice hackney pony. Lucinda graduated to the open pony class in 2002, and placed 3rd at the Vic champs. I drove her at the Nyah CDE, and found she could turn quicker than I could think!

We travelled across to Owen SA for the 2004 National champs, with a 2nd place at the Vics the weeks before, Peter was confident of a good performance. I remember Peter & Lucy trotting off to do the dressage, then reappearing, what seemed like 2 minutes later. "You will be late for your dressage" I said, and the reply from Peter "I've already done it. It may not be the best test, but it will be the fastest". They placed 3rd overall.

The preparations for the 2005 Vic champs & Nationals at Witwood were cruelly interrupted, when Lucy sliced her hind leg and needed a dozen stitches. It is still a mystery how she injured herself. Peter was involved with the Commonwealth Games Baton relay in 2006, so Merryn Bojcun, from WA, was invited to drive Lucy at the Vic champs. They didn't win, but I think Merryn fell in love with Lucy, and wanted to take her home! Peter's sister Tina took the reins in 2007 and placed 2nd at the Vic champs, which unfortunately would be Lucy's last competition. A hoof injury before the nationals, would put her out of work for quite a while.

If Lucinda couldn't be driven, she could have foals, right? Two seasons, two stallions, nothing. She would spend the next few months, a lady of leisure. I wanted to send my nervous nelly mare to stud, and asked Peter if Lucy could go along to keep her company. We arrived at the stud, and Lucy was in season, so the owner of the stallion agreed to serve both mares. A chestnut hackney/welsh cob filly is the result. We AI'ed frozen semen from Dunolly Final Edition, with a positive preg test at 45 days. Sometime during winter, Lucy had lost her 'Popeye' baby, so there was no foal for her this year.

Peter decided to bring Lucy back into work, and see if the old hoof injury would stand up to the intense fitness work needed for a CDE. He said there was 'unfinished business'. He believed Lucy could win the open pony class at the nationals, and was going to have one last go at it. Everything was going along nicely, it was as if she had never been out of work.

Unfortunately, on 9th January 2011, Lucinda had a severe colic attack and was PTS. She may have been erratic, but she was fun to drive and loved by everyone (well almost). Miss Myffy (her only foal) has a lot to live up to.

Kim Filmer

Farewell to an Equine Friend

Debra Hatton recently had to say a final farewell to her lovely chestnut roan mare, Rhyl Success or Abbey as she was affectionately known.

Debra first got Abbey as a three year old and had her broken in to harness not long after. Deb drove Abbey as a single at many events for approximately 5 years starting out as a novice and progressing quickly on to open pony class.

With her calm nature and her willingness to please, Abbey showed that she could multi-skill, taking Deb's daughter, Nicole to pony club for over 12 months, boosting Nicole's confidence and giving her hours of fun. During this time, Deb had her second roan pony, Lyric broken in and after driving him single for a while, decided that it would be great to drive Lyric and Abbey as a tandem combination. Abbey was a willing wheeler, letting Lyric strut his stuff and be the "pretty boy" out in front as the leader. Deb drove these ponies as a tandem for a number of years and won many events.

In 2000, Deb went overseas for a trip and was horrified when she came home to find that Abbey had foundered so badly that she was advised to have her put down. This was a terrible decision to have to make and Deb and Geoff decided that they would give Abbey a chance. They tended to her feet daily and nurtured her. After a couple of weeks, Ron King, our founding life member and master farrier, took Abbey to his place and got her back on her feet and on to the long road to recovery. It took two years of care and rest, and many times when Deb was told Abbey would never be able to work again. Eventually, Abbey came good and went on to compete in tandem again.

When Deb and Geoff moved to their new home in Mickleham, their new neighbours, Peter and Vicky Lee, along with their daughter Melissa, would look in awe over the fence as Deb was working her wonderful carriage ponies. Melissa took an interest in this new horsey discipline as did Deb's daughter, Nicole. Deb, wanting to encourage the two junior drivers, decided that she would split the tandem and let Nicole drive Lyric and Melissa drive Abbey. Being the wonderful schoolmaster that she was, Abbey gave Melissa confidence and helped to teach her to drive. She was such a good pony.

Attempts to make Abbey a mother were unsuccessful and after a few tests, it was revealed that Abbey was no longer fertile, so with no breeding future, she became a bit of a paddock ornament for a while as Deb had another two young ponies that she was getting going.

Deb was approached by Anne Robinson from the RDA and asked if she could use Abbey in their driving for the disabled program. Deb thought that Abbey would be a wonderful RDA pony so it was agreed that she would go down to Mornington. Abbey was in her element. She loved the light work of the RDA and the clients absolutely loved her too. She gave so many of them so many wonderful times. She also made a return to the pony club circuit with Sue's young daughter riding her at pony club for two years. In all this time, Abbey never missed a beat or put a foot out of place. She was a true asset.

Earlier on this year, Abbey started to look unwell and then went off her feed. The vet was called in and she was diagnosed with Cushings Disease. This, coupled with a flare up of foot problems, forced the decision that she didn't deserve to be in such misery and that she should, at the tender age of 20, be allowed to go out to pasture in that great, green paddock in the sky.

Farewell Abbey. You really were, as your name suggested, a Rhyl Success.

VALE "FINALITY RUSULKA"

Hackney Pony, Sire; Adelphi Expressionaire Dam; Merri Little Velia
Bred & Owned; Lane Family
23.8.2002 - 2.3.2011

Finality Rusulka and Nicole Allen have come a long way together since 2003 when Nicole at 14 years old first showed Rusty as a led weanling at the APSB Stud Show.

It became clear when Rusty was broken to harness that this little Hackney pony's forte was as a performance pony, her athletic ability was outstanding right from the start. Rusty is not keen on dressage and Nicole struggles at every competition to keep her settled, her pony would just love to get the dressage ordeal over as quickly as possible and get on with the fun stuff. This is fairly frustrating for Nicole but her fast and fiery Hackney pony has been a wonderful teacher, she has taught Nicole to cope with whatever tricks the pony can throw at her.

Rusty's speed and accuracy with Nicole's good judgement on the cross country and in the cone drives has seen them come from behind at many competitions and prance off with the trophies, they very quickly graduated from novice to open level, twice winning the trophy for the Best Performance by a Hackney at the National Championships.

At the 2010 Australian Combined Driving Championships recently held in Peterborough drivers and horses travelled from as far as Western Australia and Queensland.

Finality Rusulka a 12.2 hh purebred hackney mare was at her worst and her best, true to form Rusty was very 'hot' all weekend, she was close to 30 points behind and in last place in her class behind 8 competitors after the dressage.

Skilfully driven by Nicole Allen the little mare was the fastest horse through 7 of the 8 marathon obstacles, she blitzed the field on cross country day to bring her up to striking distance for the cone drive. The little mare undaunted by the previous days gruelling marathon of 18 kilometres fizzed again on cones day and would not settle so Nicole just had to let her rip, she had the fastest cones round for the whole competition and with fewer knock downs than the class leader.

That sure is winning a national championship the hard way! The future is bright for this super little Hackney mare and her young carriage driver.

Rusty was a very special pony, sadly she was in foal

New trophies for Victorian and Australian CDE championships

in loving memory of 'Finality Rusulka',

Best performance in the Marathon by a pony 121-149cm (where she really shone)

CHPHC extravaganza

The CHPHC extravaganza was held on the 19th and 20th of Feb. On the Friday we seen plenty of competitors rock up. we had 20 competitors in total with one scratching so it ended up to be great to see everyone :) that night michelle and nick jones, paula, shane, stacey, and jake rhodes, melissa and troy palvianen, sat around the club shed talking and telling funny stories to each other of past times. Saturday came, and the 1 hour driving classic was held. It was great to see everyone enjoying themselves. After the 1 hour, the barrel race was held!!!! it was hilarious to watch and everyone really enjoyed themselves. was funny to watch the competitors wanting to go faster, faster, faster hahah. That night was the trivia and yes i made a fool out of myself like i always do :/ but it worked out really well with many funny answers and great laughs. We also had members from the huntly adult riders attend and they really enjoyed themselves too. Sunday was the Nav drive and everyone who drove absolutely loved it!!!! It was great to see the fear from nick jones wanting to use a nav man because he cant trust michelle with directions "she'll get me lost!" haha it was a great weekend and it was great that it was our first ever event held at huntly equine reserve.

*Carolyn Grinter and her talented horse "Grace"
won Champion Hunter on the Flat at
the Royal Melbourne Show.*

*Carolyn did well in other Hunt classes on "Grace"
and other horses as part of Tocumwal Hunt Club.*

*Many would know Carolyn and "Grace" when they have
been out and about competing in driven dressage and CDEs.*

Have you got a multi talented horse or pony????

Send in some photos and tell us all about them,
we would love to hear about what they can do!!

Club Drive

Fiona Mottram with tandem hitch donkeys Keysoe Simon (lead) and Yurrah Coda (wheeler) and passenger Xavier Duursma (10-year-old neighbour who kept donkey water fresh over Christmas holidays), enjoyed a 16km circuit on Sunday March 27 from Buffalo to Stony Creek and back. For quite a range of reasons, no one else was able to bring their equines put with us. It was a postponed outing from last November when I was sick and couldn't host the trail and bring the key to the rail trail gates along. I hope the low turnout this time means we repeat this drive again next spring when the flowers are out and more people can join in.

Our start off was disconcerting because as Lindy was leading Simon to help us u-turn away from the float to commence the trip she fell heavily backwards into a ditch and being obedient, Simon followed and ended up lying down on top of her. [The normal spacious car park was closed for renovations so we were parked in a narrow spot on the side of the road],

Xavier executed an amazingly fast exit from the cart to get out of any potential trouble. Smart lad that. Lindy didn't seem to appreciate what a lovely donkey Simon is at close range and repeatedly asked for him to be got off her, though later on she recounted it as a smoochy encounter with a boy who was dark and handsome!

Fortunately, Lindy wasn't hurt and neither was Simon, the latter getting off her by his own efforts; no doubt he objected to the noise Lindy was making near his sensitive large ears.

I was busy holding Cody back from following Simon into the ditch, so Warren helped Lindy up. Well so he should, he's her husband.

We departed before recriminations were possible. [Guess who forgot to tell her the ditch was there under the long grass, hmmm]. Well Lindy, I truly am sorry!

The donkeys powered along the lovely smooth surface of the rail trail which was surprisingly intact after the recent heavy rains, and we trotted almost the whole 8km to the halfway point. We met a number of cyclists who were friendly and interested in our form of transport, and also Warren & Lindy walking towards us from the Stony Creek end. [No more wrestling bouts].

It is basically uphill coming 'home' so we took longer on the return trip than expected but used the time to gaze at the scenery – even spotting a koala overhead, which woke up and climbed higher due to our audible excitement, i.e. shrieks of delight.

Warren kindly came out by car to check we were ok but by then we were nearly back into Buffalo township. Lunch at a picnic table under a shade sail next to the general store with Catharina, Margaret, Lindy and Warren was enlivened when a cascade of baby spiders dropped down from above and into the proceedings. Even my terrier Minnie under the table had them crawling on her as if she was some hairy white jungle adventure. This led to people trying to out do each other with 'spider stories'. Lindy related the best one but as it involves naked dancing on furniture, I am not going to repeat the detail! Fortunately Xavier was off playing ball with Lindy's Border Collie Lara at the time. I know I nearly choked on my lunch and laughed til I cried.

It was a quick meeting – now we know who the noisy ones are who delay the process – and we toddled home. I especially appreciate the distance Margaret traveled to attend.

Looking forward with bells on to having more equine company next month. With a grin & a hee-haw,

Fiona



Victorian Branch Calendar

Date	Activity	Club	Venue	Contact
April 2011				
20-21	Easter Camp Over	Central Highlands	Huntly	(03) 5435 3193
22	CDE Vetting & Aus Champs Dressage	Southern Highlands Carriage Club	Bundanoon, NSW	(02) 4883 6203
23-25	Australian Carriage Driving Championships	Southern Highlands Carriage Club	Bundanoon, NSW	(02) 4883 6203
May 2011				
1	Club Drive	Eastern Vic	Bairnsdale	(03) 5683 2525
13-15	Dressage, Training, Cones, Navigation Drive	Benalla	Oxley	(03) 5766 2257
14-15	Pleasure Drive	Murrumbidgee & Riverina Clubs	Lockhart, NSW	(02) 6026 8056
22	Dressage School	ACDS-VB	Greenvale	(03) 5281 5068
June 2011				
18	ACDS-VB AGM	ACDS-VB	Cross Keys Hotel, Strathmore	(03) 5030 2593
July 2011				
16	ACDS AGM	ACDS		(03) 5983 6629
August 2011				
24-28	World Pairs Driving Championships	FEI	Conty, France	
September 2011				
22-25	World Pony Driving Championships	FEI	Lipica, Slovenia	

October 2011				
8-9	CDE	Oaklands	Greenvale	(03) 9745 2776
November 2011				
10-13	Equitana		Sydney, NSW	www.equitana.com.au
19-20	Australian Carriage Driving Classic	Euroa	Longwood	(03) 57985246

** These events/activities are not sanctioned by the ACDS-VB*

Please check with the relevant Agricultural Show Society with regard to light harness classes.

Please note: Competition information for inclusion on the Victorian Calendar will not be accepted unless sent by email or “snail” mail to the Editor or Branch Secretary from an authorised representative of the Club. Social activities, etc. will be taken from Club newsletters.

Want to cut down on postage for competition mail outs, why not email a Word or PDF version (only) for me to load onto the ACDS Vic branch website for access via the calendar !!

Could all clubs *PLEASE* pass on calendar dates with full details to Janice Gorick via mail or email goricks@nex.net.au especially the town the activity will take place. Feedback from potential members tells us that not knowing where drives, etc. will take place can make them unwilling to approach clubs. Also other members may want to join in neighbouring clubs' fun!!!

Club News & Notes

Bellarine Harness for Pleasure Club - Bellarine Harness Club has spent most of the past month getting ready for the Victorian State CDE Championships which were run at Victoria Park Inverleigh on 12-14th March. There were 43 entries and the weather was kind to us. The event ran well and we had a dinner for 120 on Sunday evening. The only incidents were 2 grooms getting thrown off in the water obstacle! It was great to have the use of the Cricket Club oval for our dressage and their clubhouse for our dinner. Many thanks go to our major sponsors, Barwon Equine Hospital and Legend.

Benalla and District Horse Driving Club: Benalla members are currently making enquiries about the possibility of hosting an Interstate Cones Competition. Their annual training and fun weekend was held in May.

Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club: held a CDE at Koonoomoo, Melbourne Cup weekend, where the weather fairly unkind but had good entries. The club will be removing yards & MOs from their old site to relocate to Koonoomoo. They enjoyed a Fun Day/Xmas break up at their grounds. A Dressage Comp and Lessons were held in January and the Club will be hosted the Victorian Dressage Champs in March.

Central Highlands Pleasure Harness Club: Unfortunately the Dressage day/Judges school plus rally and working bees were cancelled due to excessive rain but Dressage days were held in January. Club has purchased more equipment for use at competitions. The Club's Extravaganza was very capably run by young Stacey Rhodes with assistance from her mother Paula. The event was a jackpot with a one hour event, followed by a harness version of a barrel race; together with a navigation drive and trivia night. All aspects were a great deal of fun. The fencing contractors were able to make start on the obstacles over the weekend of the 27th of March after being hampered for some months with continual wet weather.

Eastern Vic Pleasure Harness Club: Even though the weather has been very wet we have still managed to drive with many members attending the local shows with success. The proactive Gippsland Show (Sale) offered prizemoney of \$1,000 for the harness classes and attracted sixteen horses/ponies. "Burrowa Blackbird" won Champion Horse or Pony and the magnificent Clydesdale "Beerega Culros" won Supreme which he also won at Melbourne Royal. Other members have travelled long distances to compete in CDEs with success. Dawn Walter and her pony "Yanina Mister Minstrel" placed first at Koonoomoo, a round trip of 1,200kms. Our pleasure drivers have organized well attended monthly drives and our Christmas function was a great success. We enjoyed many great times in 2010 as well as increasing our membership and we look forward with great anticipation to the year ahead. Members have been very busy in the past month and taken part in many varied activities with their driving friends. The March drive was at Tambo Upper in beautiful autumn weather, 8 members attended and had an enjoyable time. Others attended a variety of shows Berwick, Warragul, and Orbost with a lot of success. Another member travelled to Inverleigh to compete in the Vic Champs. At the Kilmany Centenary on the Labour Day weekend, members displayed their harness and vehicles for the public to view.

Euroa Silver Horseshoes Harness Club: Euroa Club hosted their 16th annual Australian Carriage Driving Classic at Longwood 13th/14th November. Despite dire warnings from the BOM of 80mm of rain for each day the weather remained fine during the course of competition. One highlight of the weekend was the discussion with Elizabeth Lawrence and Michelle Jones, our recently returned World Singles Championships competitors, recounting many of their adventures, and misadventures, overseas. In all, an enthralling tale, and most appreciated by fellow drivers and friends.

Marathon Day dawned fine and mild. The majority of competitors enjoyed a fairly straightforward drive, although one competitor unfortunately didn't make it through Section A and long reined their pony on a long walk back to camp! After the event some drivers stayed for lessons with Janelle Marshall.

Club members, Rachel and Jessica Haslau competed at Equitana in the Obsthons - a wonderful opportunity to promote Carriage Driving. Jessica was Reserve Champion in the Singles with 21 year old Dillon, and Rachel was Reserve Champion in the Pairs with Tya Aphrodite and Tya Charmer. Rachel also competed in the Jump and Drive with Clayton Fredericks on a borrowed horse - both having an absolute ball. Club members, Graham Martin and Rachel enjoyed success at the first Koonoomoo CDE and we congratulate CHDTC on their endeavours with their new venue.

The club is on track for the 2012 National CDE Championships to be held at Longwood over Easter 2012. All Dressage Judges who have accepted an invitation to judge at the Championships are either Full International Judges or Candidate International Judges. Euroa Club hosted a very successful three day instruction clinic with Rachel Haslau and Michelle Jones at Longwood.

Gippsland Pleasure Harness Society: Members have been busy a Dressage school to enable judged to refresh and a dressage competition in January. The CDE in February was unfortunately cancelled due to the flooding that hit West Gippsland. Members have been enjoying pleasure drives and catching up.

Lakes and Craters: members have enjoyed many pleasure drives and social get togethers.

Mornington Peninsula Pleasure Harness Club: Over the past couple of months our new members have been enjoying their driving. We have been holding our regular Rally on the 3rd Sunday of the month Rain, Hail or Shine and we have had a few drop-ins who may convert to members in the future. Several members have also been attending the grounds through the week for a social drive and/or lesson.

We have had new members attend their first CDE events both indoors and out, some driving and others grooming, which had been recommended as a great way to learn.

A dressage day was held recently with good attendances.

North Eastern Pleasure Harness Club: North Eastern Pleasure Harness Club has been having drives in the Chiltern Forest. Joy Belles has been organising them with Mary Crawshaw helping, and one or two other invitees joining.

Oaklands Horse & Driving Club: Oaklands ran its event at Greenvale with success. Three new permanent marathon obstacles had been built during the off-season (thanks to Peter Harkness, Dick Harkness, Andrew Pollock, Andrew Marshall and all other members who assisted) and we had access to the sand arena for dressage following its increase in size to 125m x 70m. The event included a nice drive through the national park. It is Oaklands intention to continue to develop the Greenvale location.

Oaklands members have been out in force competing at a number of agricultural shows, CDE's at Koonoomoo and Longwood and representing carriage driving at Equitana. Oaklands are planning a weekend at Greenvale on the last weekend in January which included a TRP school, interstate cones competition and one hour CDE. Many Victorian members will be aware that Oaklands lost one of its founding members and a life member, Ron King on 20 March 2011. Ron had been ill for a few years. Over 300 people said farewell to Ron at the funeral held at the Oaklands Hunt Club before the horse drawn hearse took him to his final resting place. Ron had been involved in the equestrian world for all of his life and was a character. He will be missed by all. Oaklands members have been out competing at the Victorian CDE championships, dressage championships and there are a number who made the journey north at Easter to compete in the 40th anniversary activities.

Southern Cross Harness Club: Our last drive was from the Port Albert race course to the Victoria Hotel in Alberton where we met other club members. We all had a wonderful meal and meeting. After the equines (horse, ponies and donkey) had rested we returned to Port Albert race course. For those who attended it was a wonderful day. More drives have been planned including along the rail trail from Buffalo to Stony Creek and return. Southern Cross Harness Club Inc. members enjoyed their 20th year celebrations on the 12th and 13th March 2011 held at Napier Park Won Wron.

