

# Laurie's Story –

by

Jane Christie, Eastern Vic

Laurie Richards is a valued member of the Eastern Vic pleasure harness club and I would like to share with you part of his 'horsey life journey'. Laurie lives in Bruthen in a home he built himself in recent years in his retirement (Laurie is 86). He has a workshop and blacksmith forge out the back and in the past couple of years Laurie has built a little cart or two and has saved many of us by doing repairs on our carts. I recently took my old brake cart to Laurie to fix the seat as it wouldn't move forward and backwards, the bracket the winder goes through was stripped from wear. I smiled when Laurie looked at it and said "I think I can fix it, but it's a few years since I made one of these .... It would have been during my apprentice days in the 40's". My brake has Coffey brother's plates on the shaft and seat and that is where Laurie was an apprentice as a carriage builder in Church Street, Richmond.

Laurie was 15 and the Second World War was in full swing. The war had caused petrol to be rationed and Coffey brothers were again getting orders for lorries, jinkers and milk carts, which Laurie said looked like little chariots. Laurie remembers there being 25-30 people employed at the workshop. Laurie would leave his home in Ringwood at 6.30 and travel by train to Richmond; he worked as a wheelwright and blacksmith for several years before taking to the road.

Laurie had horsey parents his dad was an apprentice jockey and he describes his mum as 'horse mad'. When they were farming Laurie remembers his mum riding the draught horse round and round when it was on the horse walker to cut the chaff or saw logs. He explains that the belt would slip off if the horse got off track, so round and round she would go.

After Laurie's time on the road as a blacksmith he got into quarries and that is what he did with the next 50 years of his life. And now he is back to carriage building and recently built a little Hansom cab for his pony Beau. But Laurie's new interest is combined driving so his Hansom cab is up for sale (anyone interested?) and he is building a CD cart.

Laurie did fix my cart making a bracket from scratch and I am pleased to say the seat moves with ease again, Laurie hadn't forgotten.



Laurie with his Hansom Cab

'Round the Traps – December 2011

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## Random News

**Pink CDE** - Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club will be conducting a **Level 4 CDE** on **April 21/22<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**. All proceeds will go to Breast Cancer Research. It is hoped everyone will get behind this CDE to help raise money for this cause. There will be prizes for Best Pink attire in Dressage and Marathon phases, a Pink Drink Reception on Friday night and a fun night of Pinkness on the Saturday evening. So start planning your pink gear now.

Eastern Vic sent in some great pics.

Driving in the driving rain!  
Jane Christie with Roberta  
Earley driving Jamie, the  
Champion Harness Horse of  
Sale Show.



Trevor Coster driving  
Blackbird, Champion  
Harness Pony at Sale Show.

## A DRIVER'S CHRISTMAS

It was late December at a Christmas show,  
last class of the day and it was starting to snow.  
A dozen turnouts had answered the horn  
with pairs and tandems and a unicorn.  
The paddock man yelled "I'm closing the gate!"  
when in swooped a turnout with a team of eight.

The judge shook his head and consulted his card,  
then flipped through his rulebook and looked real hard  
For the section of the code, on which page it lay,  
for the turnout specs that applied to a sleigh

With a hitch of eight that were not equine...  
then with a flash of red nose the hitch counted nine!  
The whip on this rig was dressed for the night  
in a bright red coat and fur lap robe tucked tight  
Around his belly and over his lap,  
and jingle bells hung from the fur on his cap.

Obviously he hadn't seen the "No Smoking" sign  
as he puffed on his pipe while he guided his nine.  
The announcer called "Trot" and the carriages  
glided  
while the gaze of the audience was pretty one-sided

For the gent in red went around and around  
while it seemed his team didn't quite touch the ground.  
On the reverse the horses all got a look  
at the gleaming gold sleigh and that's all it took  
For the bays and the chestnuts, the gray and the black,  
to break to a canter and refuse to come back.

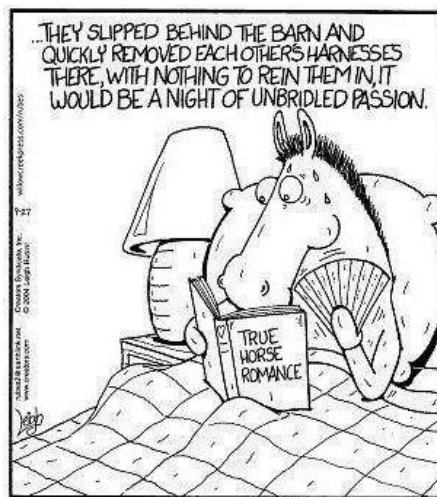
They were snorting and pawing and a pair started  
to rear  
when the sleigh driver shouted "You have nothing  
to fear."

"I got a little off course as I started my flight  
and decided to make this show my first stop of the night.

"I'm afraid I paid no entry fee nor filled out the form  
and I know my sleigh is out of the norm.  
"In fact, no blue ribbons or some other prize,  
I've a sackful of goodies, for all a surprise."

Then he lined up his hitch right beside the stunned judge,  
hopped out of his rig and gave him a nudge  
And a gaily wrapped gift from the pack in the sleigh  
while other entries crowded 'round with a snort  
and a neigh.  
Soon that jolly old elf had delivered his loot  
to each of the whips and ringmaster to boot,  
Then hopped back in his sleigh and to his team  
gave a whistle  
and away they all flew like the down of a thistle,  
But we heard him exclaim ere he drove out of sight,  
"May your forty metre circles all be round and just right."

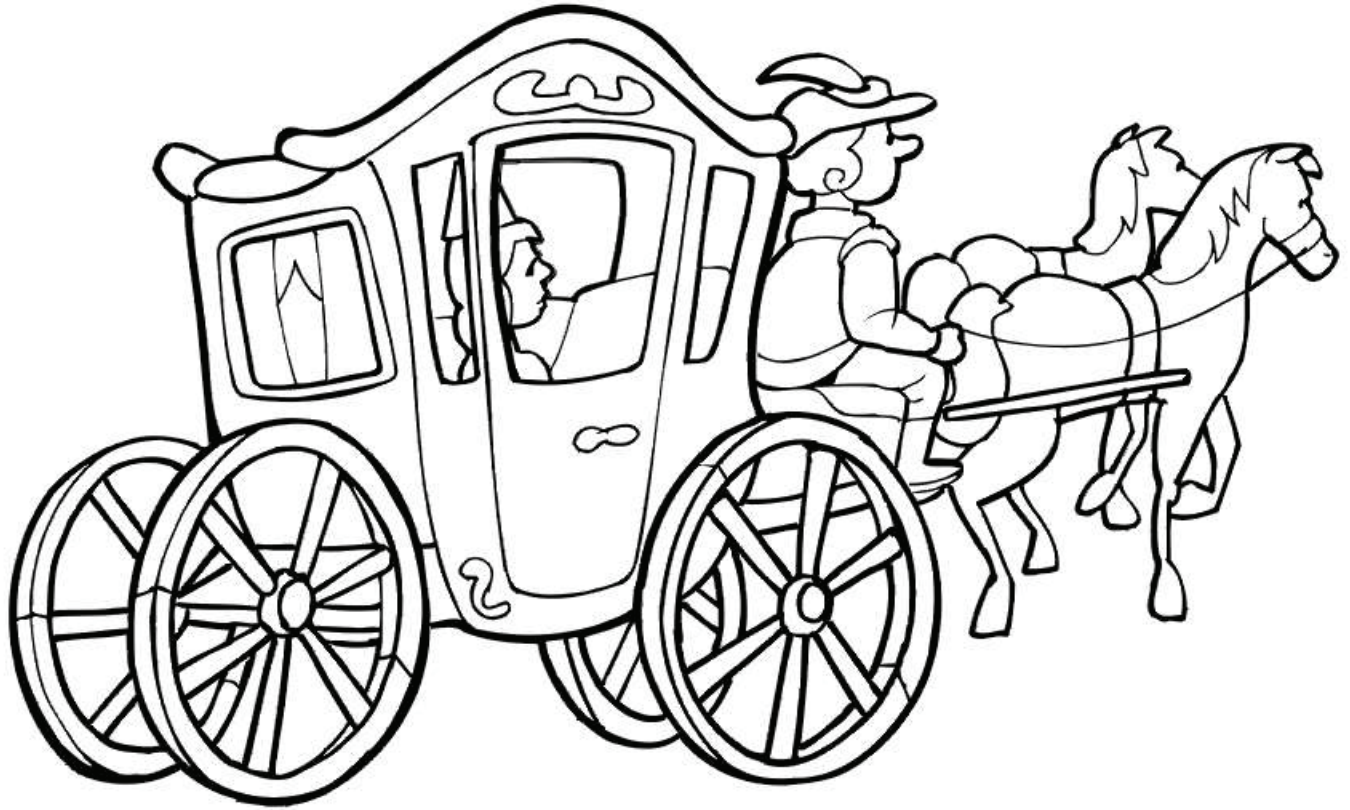
Liz Goldman



Thanks to Janice Gorick for the items on this page.

## Junior's Fun Page

Here's a picture for you to colour. Send it back to me when you're done and I will find a prize for the best ones received.



Name:

Age:

Club:

Address:

## A letter from the Victorian Branch

### The Australian Carriage Driving Society Inc

#### Victorian Branch A8407Y

ABN 461 859 154 06

24 October 2011

To all Club Secretaries

I am writing to you to clarify an item that was discussed at the last branch delegates meeting, following correspondence from a Victorian member in relation to concerns arising from activities at events. The member raised an important risk management and safety issue which needs to be addressed by all clubs and members. There are obviously insurance risks that may be triggered by such activities; including insurance policies that may not respond in the case of an incident if there is non-compliance with road rules; and/or insurance companies not being prepared to renew insurance policies thus putting the ACDS and its members at a severe disadvantage.

The issue that the member raised related to the illegal use of motor vehicles by competitors and grooms which over many years has been allowed to go on or not prevented. This includes unlicensed driving of vehicles, driving or riding of unregistered vehicles, and course inspections on the backs of utility vehicles or trucks. As the member pointed out, none of these activities are acceptable any longer and the risk of allowing illegal activities to continue is too great. As a result, the delegates at the meeting discussed this issue and asked the Executive to write to all Clubs on the issue which is the purpose of this letter.

The Victorian Branch position is as follows:

1. Participants (including grooms) and all other persons at events must obey all road rules as they apply on public highways and on private land (noting that in some circumstances the law does not differentiate between the use of vehicles on public highways or private land). All vehicles must be registered as required by the road rules in Victoria. The road rules include wearing seat belts; no persons are to be carried in trays of utility vehicles, trucks, trailers; learner drivers must display "L" plates and be accompanied by a full licence holder.
2. Bicycles – helmets must be worn as required by the road rules in Victoria. For the purpose of clarification, this includes all children.
3. Quad bikes and three-wheeled trikes
  - i. Drivers of quad bikes and trikes must regularly seek and comply with updated advice from VicRoads as to registration, permits and the wearing of helmets in relation to each particular quad bike/trike. The law relating to such quad bikes/trikes will vary depending on its particular specifications and its intended use. In some circumstances these quad bikes/trikes can be used on private property regardless of whether they are registered or not. However, see comment on insurance (the Transport Accident Commission will not cover a person who is injured as a result of a transport accident involving an unregistered vehicle on private land).
  - ii. Quad bikes and trikes can only be used on public land (which includes Council/Shire land, Department of Sustainable Energy land) if they are registered as required by the road rules in Victoria or if the quad bike or trike is not capable of being registered, the user must (i) have a permit issued by VicRoads Policy Department allowing for the individual to use the quad bike or trike on public land without the quad bike or trike being registered (noting that permits will only be issued if the driver of a trike has a current motorcycle licence or if the driver of a quad bike has a current driver's licence); and (ii) Council/Shire or Department of Sustainable Energy approval to the use of the quad bike or trike on public land be obtained (regardless of whether a permit has been granted by VicRoads). This approval should be obtained in writing. **It is the responsibility of the user to obtain and provide the organisers with a copy of these approvals.**

The Branch is aware that you will not necessarily be able to control the activities of persons other than competitors and other members as there will be times when there are the general public in attendance watching events. However, the Branch believes it is appropriate that if these types of activities by the general public are sighted, the offending persons should be asked to comply. Please remember that it will be our public liability insurance that may be required to respond in the case of an accident giving rise to an insurance claim.

It is suggested that an appropriate flyer be included in competitor's packs pointing out the requirement for strict compliance with the road rules in Victoria.

If there are any questions in relation to this matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Branch Secretary or me.

Yours faithfully

PETER LEE

President

**'Round the Traps – December 2011**

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# Victorian Branch Calendar

January 2012	Activity	Club	Venue	Contact
7	Dressage/Obstacles Instruction	Mornington	Crib Point	(03) 5983 6629
8	Graded Dressage Day	Mornington	Crib Point	(03) 5983 6629
14-15	Wonthaggi Ag Show		Wonthaggi	<a href="http://www.basscoastagshow.org.au">www.basscoastagshow.org.au</a>
15	Club Rally	Mornington	Emu Plains	(03) 5983 6629
21-22	Dressage Qualifier	Carriage Horse	Koonoomoo	(03) 5873 4145 or 0400 645 669
28	Nerrim Ag Show		Neerim	<a href="http://www.vicagshows.com.au/neerim.html">www.vicagshows.com.au/neerim.html</a>
29	One Day Fun Day	Eastern	Stratford	(03) 5145 6103 Program <a href="#">here</a> 0414 772 806 Entry <a href="#">here</a>
<b>February 2012</b>				
4	Fun day (tbc)	Gippsland	Catani	(03) 5942 8485
5	Driven Dressage day	Gippsland	Catani	(03) 5942 8485
11-12	Korumburra Ag Show		Korumburra	<a href="http://www.vicagshows.com.au/korumburra.html">www.vicagshows.com.au/korumburra.html</a>
<b>11</b>	<b>National Show Driving Championships</b>	Central Highlands	Bendigo Showgrounds	0403 195 482
12	Driven dressage qualifier	Central Highlands	Bendigo Showgrounds	0403 195 482
12	Club Rally	Mornington	Crib Point	(03) 5983 6629
18-19	CDE	Bellarine	Inverleigh	(03) 5264 5235
19	Club Rally	Mornington	Emu Plains	(03) 5983 6629
25-26	Club Rally	Central Highlands	Huntly	0403 195 482

<b>March 2012</b>				
<b>10-12</b>	<b>Victorian Carriage Driving Championships</b>	Oaklands	Greenvale	
24	Driven Dressage	Benalla	Oxley	(03) 5766 2257
25	Enduro Drive	Central Highlands	Neilbourough	0403 195 482
<b>25</b>	<b>Victorian Driven Dressage Championships</b>	Benalla	Oxley	(03) 5766 2257
31	Joe Hawkins Cup	Riverina	Marrar, NSW	tba
<b>April 2012</b>				
<b>7-9</b>	<b>Australian Carriage Driving Championships</b>	Euroa	Longwood	(03) 5798 5246
15	Club Rally	Gippsland	Catani	(03) 5942 8485
<b>21/22</b>	<b>Pink CDE(Level 4) in aid of Breast Cancer Research</b>	<b>CHDTC</b>	<b>Koonoomoo</b>	<b>(03) 5865 8228</b>