

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

6th November, 2019 – Melissa Dawson



It is with pleasure that I present my President's Report to the Annual General Meeting for 2019.

As I reflect on the year that has been, I am so proud of all that we have achieved together as a club and I am amazed at just how many events/activities have been co-ordinated. We have definitely been busy!

Our year got off to a start with recommencement of our Wednesday and Saturday rallies and it is pleasing to report that attendance remains steady. This is most encouraging. Our arenas have held up very well and the new sand that was spread on the bottom arena at this time last year, has now well and truly settled and is providing a great surface to ride on. I would like to acknowledge the work and commitment of Lisa Utting, our Saturday rally co-ordinator. You continue to organise great riding instruction for our Saturday rally riders and we appreciate all of your efforts – thank you Lisa.

Our club hosted the HRCV Level Assessor Training Day on Sunday, 14th April. Thank you very much to our members who gave of their time to be the demo riders for the day. Special thank you to Kylie Christian for sharing her culinary talents and providing the morning tea and lunch for the candidates and assessors as well as being a demo rider. One of the candidates sent me a lovely email thanking us for our hospitality and commented on our great facilities and friendly, easy going members. By all accounts the day was very successful.

Saturday, 18th May was a busy day. Whilst rally was taking place, we also had Emma Crawford – Animal Communicator at our grounds helping members gain a better understanding of their horses through her ability to connect and communicate with them. Emma returns to our grounds on 23/24th November.

Our working bee was held on Saturday, 25th May and as always, lots was achieved. The yards were repainted, potholes in the driveway were filled in, dressage arenas cleaned, garden beds weeded and mulched and then we enjoyed a bbq after the work was finished. Thank you to the cooks!

We had works completed in July to make our grounds safer for our equine partners and our members. All 14 day yard latches were replaced with safer ones, chains repaired, wash bay poles were installed to prevent soil from washing into the bay, timber bollards were installed in front of driveway culverts and front gate latches and posts were also installed.

On 6th July whilst Saturday rally was being run, Louise Barry co-ordinated a morning tea for members – past and present. By all accounts there was a lot of chatting going on! It was a great success and we look forward to another one next year. Thank you Louise.

We had a new manure pit erected in August and a refurbishment to the existing one. Thank you Michelle and David Anderson for bringing your machine down to club and cutting in the new site.

We have seen an eventful few months from August to October. We held our Showjumping Jackpot (Sunday, 18th August), Mid-Week Dressage (Wednesday, 28th August) and Dressage Jackpot (Sunday, 13th October). Our Hursty club grounds have certainly been a hive of activity. We have been very lucky with our competitions. HRCVA have reported that entries this year have been down on previous years and many clubs have had to cancel their events. We have been very lucky with our competitions - they have been well attended.

Congratulations and thank you very much to our super organisers and team of helpers (Andrea Barton, Sarah Ross, Jenny Webb, Lisa Embling, Sarah Walsh, Karen Robinson (and John), Cheryl Hargreaves, Julia Walker, Sarah Ross (again) and Bianca Kreuzer). These events were so well run and as always we had wonderful compliments from competitors. The funds raised from holding these events go toward the maintenance and improvements to our beautiful grounds. They also contribute to the financial stability of the club, which remains strong. Our club is so fortunate to have capable and committed people happy to give of their time for the benefit of our club. There was a great response to requests for helpers to run the competitions and I would like to thank all of our members for that. Each one of you contributed to the success of these events and they couldn't have happened without you. Well done!

As I mentioned in last year's President's Report it is so fortunate that we have members who are happy to run events and it is not always about making money for the club (although this is great if we can do both). I think it is about providing an opportunity for our HRCVA community to participate in. If clubs don't run events for people to compete at, where would we be?

Thank you to Rachele Regan for co-ordinating the raffles for 2 of these events and very generously donating her wonderful Dungbeetle as prizes. Thank you also to the members who kindly donated items to be included in the raffle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our loyal sponsors (Hurstbridge Saddlery Pet & Stockfeed, Jellis Craig, Horseland, Horse Bit Emporium and The NRG Team), for their support throughout the year. We couldn't run these events without their generosity. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Nick from Bridges for the support that he gives our club by allowing us the use of his paddock to park floats in at our competitions.

Well done to all of our members who competed at our Hursty comps. We had great representation at all of them right across all levels. Some of you were competing for the very first time. Some of you won the Jackpot or the Reserve! How fantastic! Congratulations to all of our members who have taken their riding to new levels this year. I am excited for you. The sky is the limit!

Unfortunately we had to cancel the 3 Phase Equitation Weekend which was scheduled for 19th/20th October. 3 Phase Equitation is a new discipline for the HRCVA and we are very grateful to our member Trish Kruse for her nurturing of this new discipline. Thank you Trish for all your time spent in putting this weekend together. I know that you have gone to a lot of effort. We will reschedule for next year and I am sure we will have many more entries.

A group of riders headed off to Narbethong on the weekend of 25th – 27th October. I would like to thank Cath Giles for organising this trail riding weekend for our members and also for leading the group on the ride. Cath is our trail riding extraordinaire and we are lucky to have her expertise available to our members. Despite the dreadful weather conditions on the Saturday, horses and humans coped well and everyone was in good spirits. The weather improved somewhat on Sunday and a fun time was had by all.

This year we introduced a new system for membership renewal by engaging the services of Event Secretary. I hope that members are finding this process easy to use and convenient.

We were very fortunate to benefit from the generosity and community-mindedness of the principal of Catholic Ladies College in Eltham. We were given a large number of very comfortable chairs to use in our club house. Many thanks to our member Gel Sanderson who enabled this to happen and kindly delivered the furniture to us in her float early in February.

Thank you Simone Freeman for the work you do in administering the TTT entry process within our club. It is most appreciated 😊

Thank you Louise for maintaining our website. It is evolving into a useful resource for members.

Thank you to our loyal instructors for coming to our rallies and helping us improve our riding. Thank you Di for opening the club house for me on those many Wednesday mornings. I really appreciate it. To all the members who have done rally duty and brought along the delicious morning tea for all to share – thank you for your generous spirit.

We are very lucky to have such fantastic club grounds to use and we always receive comments from visitors about how lovely our facilities are. Thank you Di for all that you do in keeping our garden beds looking beautiful. It is no accident that our grounds look manicured! Thank you Jamie Ross for your care and attention to detail when mowing and spraying our grounds.

Shekiah Inglis - a young lady who joined our club last year, very kindly volunteered to take on the role of newsletter editor. I am sure you will agree that our September newsletter looked very professional. Thank you for your enthusiasm and commitment Shekiah!

To the members who have left this year, thank you for your contributions to the club and best wishes to you for the coming year.

Welcome to our new members. We hope to meet you one day soon, perhaps at our Christmas gathering – we wish you a long association with our great club and the people in it.

It takes a dedicated committee to keep everything ticking along efficiently in a club of this size.

As always, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for the work that you have done throughout the year and also for your attendance at our monthly committee meetings. A good balance of views and ideas have resulted in some useful discussions on various topics.

To Sharlene our Secretary and Michelle our Treasurer - thank you for your commitment to the roles and for all the work that you have done for the club and our members throughout the year. It is greatly appreciated.

In summing up, our club has achieved so much in 2019 and I am so proud to be associated with the wonderful people who are a part of it. Thank you for all of your efforts.

I have enjoyed being President in 2019 and I look forward to an exciting 2020 for HDARC.

Mel Dawson

HDARC PRESIDENT