

January 2020

Hurstbridge & District Adult Riding Club

President's Report

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a great festive season with your families, friends and horses!

For some communities throughout Australia, the start of 2020 has been filled with much sadness and devastation. I am sure there will be quite a few members who will know someone directly affected by the dreadful bushfires. Our hearts go out to all those people who have lost so much and also to the wildlife that have perished.

To our members who have been involved in assisting fire-ravaged communities and wildlife recovery operations – we salute you!

As the new riding year at HDARC fast approaches, I would firstly like to say “Welcome” to our new members – we are looking forward to meeting you one day soon, perhaps at rallies. There is some information in this newsletter relating to rallies that you will find helpful to know. It is also timely to remind our older members too. Please do read all the below so that we achieve smooth sailing for all!

Rallies recommence in February! You will receive the term program for Wednesdays via email within the next 10 days. Remember that once you have booked in you are financially committed to the lesson, and if you cannot attend for any reason, please let the rally co-ordinators know (Mel Dawson – Wednesday (melissadawson1961@gmail.com) and Lisa Utting (lisau@vicbar.com.au) – Saturday) . Please don't call the instructors to let them know – the rally co-ordinator needs to know as they are the organisers.

Saturday rally is held on the first and third Saturday of each month and Wednesday rally is held each week during the school terms.



In this Issue:

CLUB EVENTS IN REVIEW

A quick overview of two events that members were recently involved in: Narbethong trail riding weekend, and TTT Dressage!

MEET YOUR COMMITTEE!

Get to know some of the members of your committee, starting with Sheridan King

RALLY DAYS AND HARROWING ROSTER

All you need to know about upcoming rallies, and who is scheduled to complete their harrowing roster.



We have all of our super instructors back in 2020, with the exception of Robbie Allen. Robbie is taking a well deserved break.

Thank you Robbie for your loyal support and super coaching of our Hursty riders throughout the many years. Although we will miss you, we wish you and Sarah a fantastic trip around Australia in your comfy caravan.

A Reminder about Rally Booking and Cancellations

If you have booked in for a lesson, and wish to cancel out of it, you must do this prior to 8.00 p.m. Sunday prior to the Wednesday and for Saturday rally - 8.00 p.m. Wednesday prior to the Saturday. So if you were to cancel on the morning or the day before the rally, then you are still obligated to pay for the lesson.

Rally Payment

If you are in arrears, you will not be able to book in for a lesson until paid up.

Each lesson is \$25 and payments can be made online before the rally or on the day.

Banking Details for Online Payments

Account name: Hurstbridge & District Adult Riding

BSB: 633000

Account number: 112585229

Please have the reference as your surname then first initial and date, eg. "Smith T 15/2"

Manure/Chains on Yards

It is each member's responsibility to clean up after their own horse. Please make sure that all manure is removed from yards, car park and arenas. Please also make sure that chains to the yards are hooked up when you leave. They must not be left laying on the ground.

Front Gates

The gates **must always** remain closed whilst horses are on the grounds.

Finally, if you are the last to leave the grounds, please make sure that you padlock the front gate upon your exit.

Your assistance with all of the above will be greatly appreciated.

Take care,

Mel Dawson



Rally Days

Rallies are typically run on the first and third Saturday of every month, and every Wednesday during school term

Payment

We have a 'pay as you ride' system. Regular rally lessons are \$25 each. Members must pay for their lessons in advance or on the day of their lesson via EFT. Please kindly reference the payment with the date of the rally and a surname so that it is clear to our treasurer what the payment is for. Example: 28/02 – Smith

Our banking details are:

Account name: Hurstbridge & District Adult Riding,

BSB: 633 000

Account No: 112 585 229

Riders who book in but don't show, are still asked to pay, unless that rider finds a substitute. Riders owing money for previous lessons are unable to book in to ride until paid up.

Guests

Only non-member riders who are insured with HRCav may apply to ride at clinics and rallies, for an additional guest fee of \$10 on top of the lesson fee, and a disclaimer must be signed. However, spectators are most welcome.

Groups

Dressage groups usually keep to a maximum of 4 riders. For safety reasons, jumping groups also have a maximum 4 riders. Thereafter riders are split into 2 groups or have private lessons.

For safety, jump lessons riders are matched by level not by time they wish to ride. Also for safety, riders late for jumping sessions may be declined to join the lesson.

On Wednesdays, groups are typically broken up as follows: Group 1 at 10.00am, Group 2 at 11.00am, Group 3 only if needed

On Saturdays, lessons start 10:30am onwards in Winter, and in Summer months they may start as early as 9am, depending on weather.

Booking

Riders of all abilities can book in for any rally, and we try to group by level and experience. Bookings should be made through Melissa Dawson for Wednesdays at melissadawson1961@gmail.com or Lisa Utting on lisauathome@gmail.com for Saturdays. **Bookings should be made no later than 8:30pm of the Sunday prior.** Riders without a booking may be declined a

Latest News & Updates!

- ➔ Our first rally back will be **Saturday, 1st February**. Poles and flat lessons will be instructed by Carly Reid, and jumping lessons will be instructed by Level 2 Showjumping coach, Tonya Holdsworth-Rose.
- ➔ On Wednesday 5th Feb, Sarah Handscomb will be doing Showjumping lessons, and Viv Axton will be doing flat.
- ➔ To assist with maintaining a more accurate key register, could all members please send their gate key serial numbers to Shevaun Sly via email shevaun_elise@hotmail.com or text 0409 387 442.
- ➔ Congratulations to long-time member Susie Walker on becoming qualified as a Level 1 Instructor with the International School of Lightness - Ecole de Légéreté. Susie also has a great article this month in chaff chat titled "Why is My Horse Anxious?". Well done Susie!

Club Events in Review

Towards the end of 2019, members participated in trail ride adventures and TTT events!



with terrific warm up area's and the fancy undercover arena was the jewel in the crown.

TTT DRESSAGE

Thursday had arrived, here we were heading off to Benalla to compete at TTT Dressage 2019, hosted by Benalla District Adult Riding Club. Excitement was in the air!

We arrived early to set up camp and were so amazed to see such a hive of activity, lots of riders had chosen to do the same. The grounds were a buzz! The committee were so busy getting everything just right and the smiles on their faces and such warm welcomes very much hid, I'm sure, their nervousness and anticipation for the big weekend ahead.

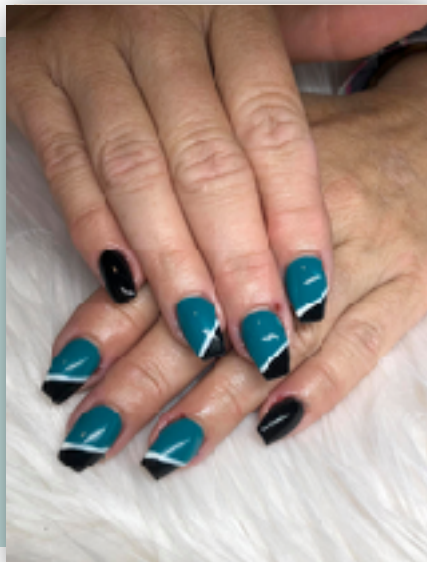
Nothing beats the feeling of a TTT event and this event did not fail to deliver.

Chatting to riders from all over Victoria, exchanging experiences, having a laugh is always such a highlight. The opportunity to compete in such a big field can sometimes be a little daunting, though I can honestly say, Benalla District Adult Riding Club really put their all into ensuring it felt chilled, vibrant and friendly. The event ran so smoothly and was so well organised. The facilities were fantastic and the canteen, well don't get me started.....let's just say, I did my best to sample EVERYTHING! The arena's looked beautiful

Our members certainly did Hursty proud. Not only were they and their precious steeds turned out so beautifully, the support amongst the members, was outstanding. Helping each other with plaiting, saddling and calling tests were as always on offer, though this outing had such an array of different riders achieving different goals. Ladies coming back into riding after a brake, ladies riding at new levels competing for the first time, experienced and knowledgeable duo's, they were all represented. We were teams working together and supporting each other, I felt super proud and so honoured to be a part of such a lovely group. We all competed with a support crew and cheer squad and we all achieved such awesome results, if felt great to be a Hursty Hero! Our helpers for the weekend completed their duty also with broad smiles, and it was also mentioned by one of the organisers how prompt, helpful and cheery Hurstbridge members were.

Well done to everyone who competed and to all those who offered such awesome support prior to the event, with a dressage arena available to practice on and great instruction from our large array of super instructors. Until the next TTT 😊

- JB



NARBETHONG TRAIL RIDING WEEKEND



I always say that the difference between a good day out on the trails and a not-so-enjoyable one when the weather is challenging, is having the right coat. And this adage proved itself on this weekend: all hail to a waterproof/wind proof coat!

Friday was a beautiful sunny day as we variously headed off up the Black Spur outside of Healesville. Unfortunately a vehicle had rolled and the highway was closed with either the option of a (potentially) very long wait or a longer route via Yea. Sharlene, Pip and I opted for the scenic route to keep in motion rather than have the horses standing static in the heat for hours. The drive did not disappoint and the valleys and vistas through Glenburn, Yea and Taggerty were a joy to behold.

Finally arriving at Jo and John's, our hosts for the weekend, we were ready for some refreshments while we leisurely set up camp. Most riders were from Hurstbridge, but it was great to enjoy the company of a few Kangaroo Ground gals. Pre-dinner drinks and nibbles were soon enjoyed around the fire, followed by a hearty meal. The fire became the gathering point as it usually does when camping and was continually stoked for the whole weekend.

Saturday's weather was predicted to be wet, stormy, sunny, hailing, windy, sunny, wet, steaming and sunny - and indeed it was.

Heavy rain overnight had made the lower trails wet and boggy with some very sloppy areas to contend with. Most of the horses coped admirably with the conditions while a few got a bit toey. This is where the fun began with the saga of the boots. Boots were on and boots were off in the mud, boots were twisting and slipping and sliding and I was personally relieved to not be the

one digging around trying to extract them from the gloop. Boots are great, but not for when the terrain and conditions are unpredictable in my experience.

We had times of glorious sunshine with lovely outlooks and then found ourselves hiding in the pine forest taking shelter from the hail. We returned to camp in fog ready for that fire again. The only real incident on the weekend was when Sharlene's 'Cham' took fright when stepping over a drain with fast running water. He rocket launched up and forward onto the main road and Sharlene hit the bitumen. Fortunately she was not seriously injured, but had endured a very hard fall. With some expert first aid attention from our in-house paramedic, Pip, some useful medication and a few cans of Canadian Club, Sharlene made a solid (but sore) recovery - her crotch may never be quite the same.

Sunday's ride saw the numbers drop as a few decided not to ride. Sadly for them, this was the ride not to miss as the sun came out and we headed into some beautiful bush for the morning. Starting out on some wide and pretty 4WD tracks through the big timber and fern glades, we eventually found ourselves weaving along stunning single tracks completely immersed in the bush. Following the rain, the vegetation was gleaming with dew and the fresh scent of the bush was bliss. On returning to camp, a delicious hamburger lunch was ready for us to enjoy before packing up and heading home.

Thanks to Jo and John Kasch for their welcoming hospitality and yummy catering with hearty, home cooking. No-one missed preparing a meal or doing the dishes.

We also loved seeing their ridden mules in action which the horses were surprisingly relaxed about. And thanks to the Hursty and KG riders that joined in and took up the opportunity to ride in a beautiful area. The weather could have been kinder, but that's the luck of the draw in the great outdoors.

Get yourselves a great coat and join me any time for a trip out on the trails.

Happy and safe riding,

- Cath Giles



MEET YOUR COMMITTEE!

INTRODUCING:

SHERIDAN KING



When did you join the committee?

This year!

Where did you grow up?

Diamond Valley, mainly St Helena

What's your occupation?

Equine Sports Massage Therapist and Marketing Manager for Ray White Diamond Creek

How long have you been a member at HDARC?

Just over 6 months

How did you first get into horses?

Watching the saddle club on TV and then slowly getting the parents to let me do riders without horses which graduated to fortnightly lessons up in Kinglake and at 12 dad made the mistake of saying "when you can afford to buy a horse you can have one", I noted he said buy... he said nothing about upkeep

Tell us a bit about your first horse:

One of my mum's bridesmaids bought a trail horse when I was 13 and teased that my mum said I wasn't allowed to ride it. After about a month of begging I went up and had a ride, 1 week later I had my first pony club rally and 1 year later I bought her. Still have her today.

Does anyone else in your family ride?

Not at all. They cannot fathom how I got the horse gene when none of them know a thing about horses

What's the longest spell you've gone without riding?

3 months because I had a back injury and it KILLED ME! Come to think of it I may have sat on her back at the 2 month mark...

What has been your most terrifying horse riding experience?

I was sitting on a horse bareback whilst someone was holding him and I must have missed a sign because he seemed calm and happy but then out of nowhere he reared and flipped. Luckily since I was bareback I slipped off to the side and he didn't land on me but it was definitely a scary experience and made rearing one of my non negotiables

What are your horsey goals for the year?

Too many! The main one is just to get back out and about after an injury filled year in 2019. I'd love to get the babies out and see what they can do and have my more experienced boy come back hopefully getting to Level 1 this year.

What are some things that you and your horse/s are currently working on?

Lots of long and low work building some topline. Teddy had just started jumping so having a lot of fun teaching him and getting back out there myself.

If you could give younger you some advice, horse related or not, what would it be?

If it's not fun, change what you're doing. And keep your chin up through the hard times because life will turn around and reward you for it.

Harrowing Roster

January – March 2020

6 JANUARY	SHERIDAN KING
13 JANUARY	LAUREN GERONDAKIS*
20 JANUARY	ASHLEIGH FULTON
27 JANUARY	SIMONE FREEMAN
3 FEBRUARY	#PONY CLUB TO HARROW
10 FEBRUARY	LISA EMBLING
17 FEBRUARY	SUSAN ELLIOTT *
24 FEBRUARY	SONJA EKBERG
2 MARCH	#PONY CLUB TO HARROW
9 MARCH	KATE EDWARDS
16 MARCH	CINDY EDWARDS
23 MARCH	KATE EDWARDS
30 MARCH	JANE EDWARDS*

* STAR = NEW MEMBER



That's it for the month!

If you would like to have something raised or featured in the next newsletter, please email Shekiah Inglis at shkinglis@gmail.com

Hurstbridge & District ARC would like to acknowledge and thank the following businesses for their valuable support towards our events:

