



NEWSLETTER WINTER 2011

Fires blazing, mud aplenty and dirty horses – it must be winter. Hibernation required until September, but for us horse riders, there is no such thing.

Even more new members have joined the club, Bullengarook Adult Riders will hopefully fulfil your horsie aspirations, we do have such a cross section of riders, I am sure there is something for everyone, but our common denominator is that we all enjoy our club atmosphere & our legendary lunches. Welcome to Charlotte & Lia and welcome back Louise,

RALLYS!!

Crikey our May rally was probably one of our biggest rallies ever, riders were going everywhere. Thanks to John, Heide & Mary for keeping everything going. It was quite difficult to accommodate everyones request, everyone wants to ride flat first, and an hour off then jump, but not before 10am. In a perfect world we would only have two lessons with millions of instructors for 10am & 12pm, but of course that is not possible.

June rally with Brenda back hot off the plane from Germany, things weren't quite as frantic, except for the invasion of the Trail Riding club, who actually were not permitted down on our grounds, but were anyway. For those who had issues with the various outside interferences, we are bringing our issues to the attention of the Rec Committee and it will not occur again,

As Brenda is away for this rally, Stacey will be co-ordinating. With the colder weather coming on, it would be good if you could bring a piece of wood for the fire. Instructing at the rally is Heidi Talbot & Mary Arnott, both of whom we have had in the past, although it has been a while since we have seen Heidi, and we have John Francis back again for jumping.

Future confirmed instructors along with the **DATES** (so many get confused) are at the end of the newsletter on the calendar.

A few pointers regarding rally booking

- Book in for a rally as soon as possible – there is a calendar of dates at the end of the newsletter, which has the years future dates, and booked instructors so far. You can book

in any time, but once the rally notice is sent, with the details, you know bookings will be closing soon

- Is it hard to hit reply to say you won't be attending if you know you won't be coming?
- Please notify exactly what you want at what level on which horse. Many riders swap horses around, and we aren't mind readers. Also if you would prefer one instructor (or not as the case may be). You can book in for more than one lesson if you want. Reasonable requests can sometimes be accommodated, but sometimes not.
- Give an idea what you will bring for lunch. It seems we have been getting an abundance of morning tea items, and not so much for lunch, ie salads. Not that there is anything wrong with a packet of biscuits, if that's what you like, but something for 1pm is preferable
- If you think you have booked in for a rally, or have not heard from anyone by the Tuesday before rally, contact us – this email system is not foolproof, nor are mobiles the most reliable things. I am sure Brenda doesn't leave you out on purpose, unless you have really pissed her off in the past
- If you book in for a rally and then pull out at the last minute, you WILL be expected to pay for your lessons, we still have to pay the instructors.

We try to give our instructors as much notice as we can, we have to book them in advance – without knowing how many will be attending a rally. I find it tricky & embarrassing to either ring up an instructor at the last minute to tell them their services aren't required, after booking them months in advance, and the reverse of this is trying to find an instructor at the last minute, as most are already committed somewhere else of course. It is really hard to balance, so the more notice we get from our members, the easier it is.

You can book yourselves in for as many lessons as you think you can cope with - \$25 for a flat lesson & \$20 for a jumping lesson. Don't forget if you are in the first lesson to allow 15 minutes to assist in setting up the showjumps before the first lesson regardless of whether you are jumping or not. Please book in **NOW** for the next rally with Brenda mintadowns@hotmailcom as soon as you know what your plans are either way (you can do it today!), makes it a lot easier for cancelling/adding instructors.

A few words from SWMBO(bni)

(She Who Must Be Obeyed (but never is) aka The president Karen Bentley)

What a big couple of months it has been!

Starting with the May rally – it was a return to the days of old where we had so many riders that lessons ran well into the afternoon for jumping and flat. Heidi and Mary put us all through our paces. Although it took several days for some of us to walk properly again after Heidi's techniques to get us to loosen our hips! Jumping with John was a return to well needed basics for most riders. His focus was to get everyone's horses going well. Its one thing for your horse to be able to jump high, but it's another thing all together to do it properly.

The May rally was huge – and it reminded me of how hard it is to do the rider scheduling. In this regard I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brenda for her efforts in doing the rally scheduling each month, and to Stacey for stepping in to do the May rally while Bren was away. As past rally organisers will attest, it is a surprisingly complicated and thankless job. And as hard as they try to accommodate everyone's request, I would ask that everyone be patient and understanding when it is just not possible to do so. When you have large numbers of riders, with multiple horses and wanting to do flat and jump lessons, it can be hard. Particularly when the organisers try to match riders of similar ability. If you have some time in between lessons don't forget your "duties" for the day.

And while I am thanking people, I want to again thank everyone for helping with our second extravaganza held on 29 May. The weather gods were reasonably kind and the day ran (relatively!) smoothly. It all came together thanks to the members that helped, together with some very selfless non-members and members children. We won't know just yet how much money we raised, but the event was run to raise some funds that we can use for club improvements and to subsidise events. On that note, please feel free to contact any of the committee members if you have some ideas of improvements that can be made to the club, or grounds, or events.

The June rally was a quieter affair, but we were really spoilt for choice with our instructors! Chris Sievers always pushes horse and riders to do better and to challenge themselves, and will be back later in the year to start getting us all in to shape for TTT dressage. The other side of the arena saw the welcome return of Anne Hall and her exercises which reinforce basic aids while keeping it interesting for riding pairs. Anne will be back next month so keep practicing everyone!

Despite the very real threat of horses disappearing in to the quick sand that was the jump arena, Drew ran some great jumping sessions which included a bit of everything-although lamented the fact that the 2 people he really wanted to shout at didn't jump! Sorry that Stacey and I disappointed you Drew!

LEVEL ASSESSING

In order to compete, riders need to be level assessed. We have two level assessors as members of our club, and if one of them is attending a rally, they are normally happy to assess you for \$10 or level verify you for free, but you need to pre-arrange this with them, this is not something the club organises. Not sure if there will be a level assessor at the next rally, but for all Level Assessing requirements (you need to be level assessed before you compete) call Emma on 0448 480011 or Lucinda on 0448 880226. Between Emma & Lucinda I am sure they will work something out. Otherwise you are free to get level assessed by any of the official HRCAV Level Assessors, they charge around \$50 + travel. For a full listing have a look here <http://hrcav.com.au/site/hrca/vic/downloads/Officials/level%20assessors%20141210.pdf>, Level assessment does not expire, but you do need to be level verified if you want to participate in a TTT event.

BULLENGAROOK MID WEEK & WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA COMPETITION

Our weekend event was a resounding success, thank you so much to all who contributed to the event (love you Brad). As has been mentioned many times, all our fundraising goes back to our members in the form of subsidising lessons at our rallies, clinics, TTT events, lunches, and also with improvement to our grounds – you should have seen them ten years ago!

So that is our major fundraising out of the way for this year, gird your loins for next year – there is always something on the horizon.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP

The committee discussed associate memberships at our recent meeting so we may be making some changes in the future, as we have so many members. Stay tuned.

TTT Events

For our new members, here is a crash course in Top Team Trophy events. Each year a TTT event is held in one of our six disciplines. Clubs submit teams of four, with the best three scores from each team counting to the overall winning team. To enter you need to either have competed in three events of the discipline in the 12 months prior to closing date OR be level verified in the three months prior to closing. Anyone from the club can nominate to be on a team, and if you want to be on a team with someone in particular you can ask for this, otherwise the rest get put into moderately balanced teams. Bullengarook have had varying success over the years in all of the disciplines, we have won a couple, heaps of seconds & thirds, and many placings, along with PLENTY of placings not worth mentioning. It is not about winning, its about the participating, getting out in the black & jade & just being part of a team and part of the club. Although winning or placing at TTT is also quite prestigious too. The TTT events can be loads of fun, Bullengarook move into the venue & set up camp, usually first to arrive, last to leave, regardless of our team placings. Again this doesn't happen by accident but is dependent on all the participants. We also need to get Drew to jump camp & set his spit roast up in the Bullengarook camp, not with the "rivals"

The club pays for half of our entry fees & all of the team entry fees,

TTT Horse Trials

Righto then, with various separate emails it looks like we have 7-8 riders, so will be submitting two teams. They will be submitted on receipt of logs and entry info, and many many thanks to Emma Mackenzie & Jarred Solomon who are offering to help, but 2 other helpers are still required.

TTT Navigation Ride

TTT Nav Ride is being held at Dunolly on 14th August 2011. **OKAY HERE IS THE SCOOP – GET YOUR COPY OF CARD OR LOG & ENTRY FEE TO ME ASAP, OR YOU WILL MISS OUT.**

Get yourself a partner. We already have one whole team, but no other interest as yet, so come on...it's not sheep stations, just a nice fast trail ride, with lots of questions that need to be answered. We actually have a pretty good reputation at these, so give it a go, its lots of fun, unless you are really directionally challenged!

I know it all sounds very naggy, but you have no idea how difficult it is co-ordinating teams, the showjumping horse trials & dressage last year was a nightmare with people entering & scratching, we were scrambling to keep teams together. As they are team events, it is important to realise that you are in it with three other riders from the club.

Official HRCav Rules & Competing

All HRCav tests are available for downloading here, choose your test & level & knock yourselves out, I have lashings of fun downloading & practicing the Advanced tests.

<http://hrcav.com.au/default.asp?Page=1341>

It is every riders responsibility to be up to date with current HRCav rules. They do change quite often, but the official HRCav website is a good source of full rules & updates. Check it all out here under "manual" & rules" <http://www.hrcav.com.au/>

A common mistake that riders make is not having valid cards (you need to be assessed in all disciplines except Navigation rides) and Membership card that is stamped and signed for the current financial year.

Not having the appropriate gear is also common, and it does vary through the different disciplines. Don't forget you need numbers on either side of your horse for all disciplines (except showing where you can have a neck number holder instead) and a medical arm band is always handy to have in the float.

The latest rule that has caught a few people out is the mandatory wearing of a logo on either your upper body or saddle blanket. Bullengarook have a policy of our members being able to source their own uniforms in black & jade and we have our logo down at One Stop Embroidery who has polo shirts in our colours & our logo which Tina will put on most things. Wear the Black & Jade with pride – it doesn't cost much. As mentioned below, subsidised rugbys & ties are only available through club.

There is nothing worse than riding H/C or getting eliminated over small things, and from experience, you tend to only do it once, but they are steep learning curves.

We also have quite a few instructors already booked for upcoming rallies, see the calendar further down. And also if you have a recommendation for an instructor, we are always on the lookout for somebody new. The criteria we look for in an instructor is that they are capable of instructing beginners up to a high standard, happy to teach a group of up to three riders & are reasonably priced.

General Rally Information

- Members bringing their dogs to rallies need to make sure those dogs are tied up or left in the car during lessons and at lunchtime. As long as your puppies are restrained, everyone will be happy.
- REMINDER RE: LUNGING... Members needing to lunge their horse before riding are reminded that there is NO lunging in the arenas while lessons are in progress.
- Please be ready for your lesson to prevent delays in the day, sometimes it's hard when you have to go from one lesson to the other, but courtesy for our instructors and other riders is always nice. I try to offer my instructor a hot or cold drink after riding as its hard to talk and stand for hours out in the weather. Also sometimes the lesson before runs a little over time too, it is good to check to see whether you can go on the arena if the previous class hasn't finished.
- In the colder weather, for those who have wood fires at home, could you please bring along a piece of wood to make the clubrooms nice and cosy.

- The water on the outside of the shed is used by both Adult Riders & Pony Club to water their horses, if it is absolutely necessary for you to hose your horses, can you please keep it to a minimum. The water that sources to the sink in the clubrooms is not considered drinking water, it also comes from the outside tank and is full of all sorts of lovely things. There is another poly pipe and tap in the kitchen that sources to a tank where we buy in water for drinking.

Uniforms

We have a small number of club rubgys for \$50 (these have to be ordered in lots of 20, so the sizing is a bit limited) and club ties for \$15. For all your other uniform requirements, you can get most things through One Stop Embroidery in Sunbury, the lovely Tina has all sorts of things like polo shirts & hats in our colours, which she can put our logo on for very reasonable prices, and she also can put the logo on anything you take down there, like your own vests, or woollen jumpers, or saddle blankets. You can wear any colour jodhpurs you like, but most of our riders tend to compete in black ones. Also there is a very spesh looking Roma jade saddlecloth, lined in black that Gill bought up at Lowdens in Kilmore for \$50. They look great.

For Sale

17.5" Bates Isabell Dressage Saddle. Black. Double Grain. Flocked panels. Large knee blocks. Medium gullet but of course fully changeable, and can swap for a different size gullet if necessary. Unmounted but comes with Bates saddle cover. Bought new for over \$3k, and approx 3 years ago, hardly used, been sitting inside my house for over 2 years, and does not suit my current horse.

In excellent condition, rub marks from stirrup leathers, points in great condition. Beautiful saddle, would suit a new buyer. \$1600 ono. Ph 54289028



For Sale -

- 2001 Kara Kar Double horse float. Reg Dec 2011.

In good condition. \$5500.00.



- 1998 Goldstream Off road caravan. Comfortably sleeps 6. \$15000.00

- Electric brakes
- Water tank with Elec pump
- 3 way fridge
- Gas hot plates/ Grill
- Custom jerry can holders
- Near new Annex (used 3 times)



- Pessoa Professional Jump Saddle, 17.5" used very little (approx 6 well oiled & cared for \$2000.00



rides),

- Marshall Poley Stock saddle fully mounted in excellent cond.



\$250

- 2003 Yamaha TTR125 & TTR250, Approx 600km each.

Looking for a new home. TTR125 - \$2800, TTR250 - \$4800.

Contact 5428 9095 (AH) or

Drew 0488 251 852, Brenda 0409 068 064

CALENDAR/RALLY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

July

Rally – 9 th	Flat Kylie Burton/Anne Hall Jump John Francis
Committee Meeting 12 th	7.30pm 841 Bacchus Marsh Rd Bullengarook
30 th & 31 st	TTT Horse Trials @ Werribee Park

August

Rally – 13 th	Flat Kylie Burton/Terry Campbell Jump Catherine Davies
14 th	TTT Navigation Ride @ Dunolly
Committee Meeting 16 th	TBC

September

Rally – 10 th	Flat Chris Sievers/Fiona Dearing Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 13 th	TBC

October

Rally – 8 th	Flat Chris Sievers/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 11 th	TBC
Saturday 29th	Dressage Test & Ride Day with Chris Sievers More details to follow

November

Rally – 12 th	Flat Terry Campbell?/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 15 th	TBC

December

Rally – 10 th	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC – Christmas Lunch - YAY
Committee Meeting 15 th	TBC