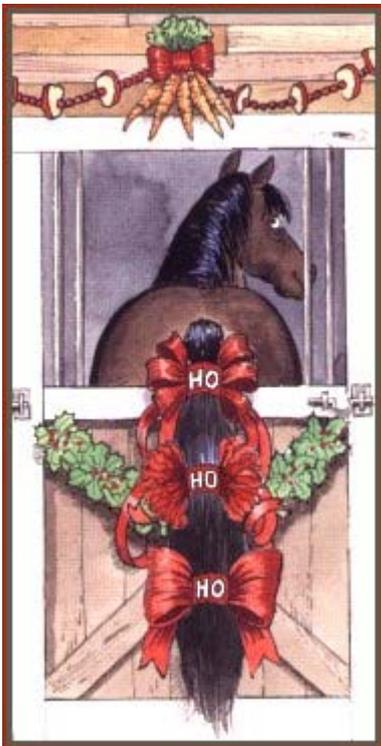




*Bullengarook*

## **NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2011**



Christmas is starting to fade into the distance and everyone seems to be in full holiday mode. I have been hearing & reading of lots of our members exploits over the break, both with achieving good things on their horses and also hearing of horses injuring themselves. And in the case of Gill – both! She had a lovely (black of course) filly born just before Christmas who managed to escape from her paddock on Christmas Day and then spectacularly flip back in, doing some decent cuts to her chest & legs on the way. Poor baby.

Emma & Lucinda are increasing in size each time I see them, it is a race to see who will foal down first, Tui, Kookai or Lucinda, all due around the same time. Except I hope Lucinda's baby doesn't weigh 50kg.

My New Years goals are to get out and master Level 2 dressage on the norty Scarlett, I have already entered a couple of competitions. It's good to see a lot of our members on the competitors list for Kyneton. Here's hoping for a day under 30 degrees.

Whatever your goals or resolutions are, I wish all our member s the best for 2012.

### **RALLYS!!**

November and December disappeared in a flash – we had the biggest traffic jam at November, and I guess it highlights the importance of mindful parking, so that everyone can fit in.

Also mentioned was riders hosing their horses down with the shed water, this water is for the horses drinking and you can fill a bucket to sponge your horse down. I am sure we all can appreciate how long the water would last with 30 riders from ARC, 30 riders from PC & the various other usages at the shed if we all hosed the horses. It has not been so bad this year but in past

years we have had to buy water in to fill the tanks. And we do get the water in for the smaller black tank that we use for drinking water.

Thanks to all the members/chefs who contributed to our Christmas rally & lunch. The meat was superb and was supplied straight from the farm by our very own Lou Mawhinney. You can buy beef or lamb packs that are guaranteed for quality. Quite a few of our members have purchased packs from Lou and been very satisfied. Feel free to contact her on [ajmfencing@itaus.net](mailto:ajmfencing@itaus.net) for more info.

It was an early start to fit all the riders in, and even though Brenda tries to take bookings up until the last minute, the reality is there are only so many lessons the instructors can do, and the earlier you book in, the more likely you can be accommodated with your requests & preferences, but sometimes it's just not possible.

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

As a small reminder, if you book in for a rally and do not attend, or a replacement is not found for your space, you are expected to pay. It is also really helpful if you could plan a bit and pay for your lessons in CASH as we pay our instructors in cash too.

The helping roster seems to suffer in the morning class, can you be mindful that if you are in the 9am lesson, regardless of whether it's a flat or jumping lesson, you are expected to help set up jumps, allow 10 minutes for this in your preparations (or bring someone who will do it for you!). Also if you are riding in two lessons, you really should be doing two lots of helping duties. The committee are unsure of how to address the helping issue, but we all want to ride our horses, and sharing the help around is the only fair way.

Each rally seems to be the balancing act – omg we may have to cancel an instructor, omg how are we going to fit everyone in. 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@hotmail.com](mailto:mintadowns@hotmail.com) 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.

### **Rally Instructors**

The club is always on the lookout for good instructors for our rallies. If anyone has a suggestion for new blood, we are more than willing to give them a go, just let someone on committee know.

Pretty much our criteria is that an instructor is reasonably priced (I don't think Stuart Tinney or Mary Hanna will fit), happy to teach all levels of rider from beginner to advanced, and happy to teach a group of 2-3, rather than private lessons. As a rule we get an instructor for one rally, and if the feedback is good, we try and get them back for an additional 2 rallies so they can build on what they have already put in place. But we also want to give our riders the opportunity to try someone new. Jumping instructors are slightly different as there are not nearly as many available.

There will always be instructors you don't like, or perhaps really like, nearly all instructors are available for private lessons, so don't be shy in approaching them if you want to take the relationship further.

### A few words from SWMBO(bni) NOVEMBER REPORT (She Who Must Be Obeyed (but never is) aka The president Karen Bentley)

I write this month's report as your re-elected president! Thanks to one and all that supported my vigorous re-election campaign, second only to a US presidential campaign.

OK - so it is more accurate to say that not a single person wanted this job. But it sounds much more interesting to make it seem like a hard fought battle and not a default position.

There are 3 main parts to the role of being the Club President. One is dealing with issues that come up. Another is harassing people relentlessly to help out, particularly at events. The last one, and the best one, is thanking people. And it is this role that I would like to focus on in this report.

I wish to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire club, to thank the hard work and effort put in by the Committee this year. Prior to joining the Committee this time last year, I had no real appreciation as to what was involved in keeping the club ticking over. The rallies and events were just magically organised and all I had to do was turn up and enjoy them. It never occurred to me to stop and thank them for their efforts.

From November 2010 to October 2011, they have:

- booked 36 instructors (give or take)
- run 12 rallies
- run 2 HRCAV events to raise funds
- run 2 clinics (Renee Pedretti and Chris Sievers)
- organised teams for 3 TTT events
- dealt with a lot of general administrative crap (I do believe that is the technical term for it)

If it wasn't for Stacey Dixon, Brenda Cotter, Anne Boyle, Deb Elliot and myself volunteering our time, none of these things would have happened. Thanks to you all that made up the 2010 committee - particularly Stacey and Bren who took on the really challenging jobs of secretary and rally co-ordinator. You can keep those jobs ladies.

So what is there to look forward to in the year to come? New rally instructors! Such as Ailish Hill instructing for the first time at our December rally. New clinics! Get in early for the David Quick clinic - take it from those of us who attended his clinic at Macedon Ranges Dressage Club, he is great! 2 big

new events in the first half of the year to raise funds for the club! Yes people, get excited now and PREPARE TO HELP!

If there is anything else you would like to see the club do, let someone on the new committee know and we'll investigate the logistics of it. Same applies if you know of anyone who may be interested in being a rally instructor. We are always on the look out for new people to try.

Keep cool while riding folks, look after your equine buddies, and see you in January!

Karen B - El Presidente

### **BULLENGAROOK SPECIAL OFFER – BLACK HORSE CLOTHING**

We have a special offer from Black Horse Clothing (designed and developed by Gillian Wooldridge , the black horse madam).

For all Bullengarook Adult Riders we will have 15% discount for all stock purchased at our January rally.

Bring cash or a cheque. Breeches (in black & tan) will be \$75, Hats & Socks \$15, Tshirts \$34. Great range of sizes from 8 to 16, and they are generous fit. You will also save the postage fee on internet sales. You can check out our Breeches at the rally or for a preview, visit our website [www.blackhorseclothing.com.au](http://www.blackhorseclothing.com.au) or alternatively they will be available at Lowden's and Ascot Saddler. Take a look at the website you may spot some familiar faces pretending to be models!!!!!!

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## **LEVEL ASSESSING**

In order to compete, riders need to be level assessed initially. Even though we have two level assessors as members of our club, it is up to riders to arrange their own level assessing. As both Lucinda & Emma have chosen to make themselves “in the family way” they will probably not be randomly attending our rallies. However they are not totally disabled and can still assess by private arrangement, along with any other of the official Level Assessors on the link below. You can 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.

## **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 Dressage**

Mixed results, personally I was a rapt as a dunny roll in my performance, and my pride only have been outshone by Brenda, who scored a rug (albeit only a cotton one, hey Drew) for winning her section. Jeez it was so far in the past I can't remember details, but I did see Brad!!! And Bren, Flora, Bree & Tash's team came in the top 8!

## **TTT Showing**

Being held on the weekend of 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> January 2012 at the Geelong Showgrounds. Two teams are heading off – fingers crossed for not a scorching day.

### **TTT Combined Training**

Being held on 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> March at Elcho Park in Lara. \$32.50 for your share of entry fee and you will ride on one day or the other, depending on what level you are. Provisionally Level 1,2 & 4 are on Saturday (this will be Wendy, Tash, Flora & Holly bare min) & Level 3 & 5 on Sunday, As usual you need to have been verified to ride at your level, but thankfully this is no longer a requirement to send of entries, you all just face the risk of riding HC if you are not valid on the day!!!! Please either field your own super teams, or let me know if you want to be included in some other dodgy team from the rest of the riffraff.

### **Level Verification for TTT Events**

Thankfully there has been a change to the level verifying/assessment from the beginning of 2012. You only need to be verified or assessed in the prior 12 months to the event, not three months. The attendance of three events alternative remains the same. Can I suggest that you make arrangements with either Emma or Lucinda or the level assessor of your choice to do all your cards asap and then you won't have to worry about it. You will no longer have to provide a copy of your card for the entries, but they will be checked when you attend the event. If the cards are not valid, you can't compete officially

As these 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.

### **General Rally Information**

- Please keep your dogs always on a lead, tied up, in the car, or at home. Please do not keep your dogs mooching for food in the kitchen.
- Please do not lunge your horse near where lessons are already in progress, either flat or jumping.
- Please be ready for your lesson, but don't intrude on the lesson prior to yours, sometimes they start late for various reasons, but finishing up is important. It is the instructors responsibility to conduct their lessons, but it is hard if others come into the arenas before the previous lesson has finished
- Please bring along a piece of wood to make the clubrooms nice and cosy.
- Please keep water usage to a minimum. The water is for horses drinking water, not hosing. This obviously is not an issue in winter, but when the warmer weather comes, it does become important. 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 wriggly & dead things. There is another black poly pipe and tap in the kitchen that sources to a tank where we buy in water for drinking. This water should be used mindfully too. We fill the urn with this.

### **Uniforms**

We have a small number of club rugbys 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.

## CALENDAR/RALLY DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### January 2012

Rally – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC –
Committee Meeting 10 <sup>th</sup>	TBC
14 <sup>th</sup> & 15 <sup>th</sup>	TTT Showing at Geelong Showgrounds
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dressage Clinic at our grounds with David Quick

### February 2012

Rally – 11 <sup>th</sup>	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBC

### March 2012

Rally – 10 <sup>th</sup>	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBC
24/25 <sup>th</sup> March	TTT Combined Training

### April 2012

Rally – 7 <sup>th</sup>	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBC

### May 2012

Rally – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBC

### June 2012

Rally – 9 <sup>th</sup>	Flat TBC/TBC Jump TBC
Committee Meeting 14 <sup>th</sup>	TBC