

EASTERN REGION ADULT RIDING CLUB

NEWSLETTER 8th July 2009

Wednesday 8th July, 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dressage Jackpot Day

Well I have finally managed to find the odd few hours to get out this much overdue newsletter! Everyone would know by now what a great success our Dressage Jackpot day was – a huge effort by many people resulted in a smoothly run day which was not only enjoyable, but made an excellent profit.

We had our usual pre-event dramas, including a judge with the flu and another double booked, causing Cindy much stress at the last minute. However, it all came together on the day. So many people put in a huge amount of work that I really shouldn't single people out, but I will quickly note just a few: David did a fabulous job on the scoring and made it very easy to get the paperwork done quickly. The Hosier family helped out with a myriad of tasks, and Tracy and Kirrilee were the first to arrive and Tracy the last to leave, while Andrew cooked up a storm, with Terry Hutton and Stephen Brinkkotter. Sue McLennan did a fab job in the canteen, with her various helpers throughout the day including the Mocks. Julie Norris kept tabs on just about everything, allocating helpers wherever needed and stepping in herself at times, and Denise Hutton took over the Card Secretary role to allow me to compete. Andrew Dinjan spent countless cold hours on parking duty, and Peter Smith again burned the midnight oil getting our program printed. We had several capable juniors who did a terrific job, and many members who put in a great effort, and of course a good bunch also turned up for the set-up the day before. A huge THANK YOU to everyone who helped, and especially to non-members!

The net result for the day was a great profit of just on \$3000!! As we had promised to donate 20% of our profit to Acheron Valley who lost everything in the bushfires, we will be sending a cheque for \$600 to their president Helen Godfrey. Helen and some of her committee helped out on the day, and Helen also competed. A photo appears further on. In addition to our donation to Acheron Valley, we have also donated \$600 towards a new state of the art refrigerator, being purchased by the Pony Club. Our existing fridges have served us well but are well past retirement age! So we have not only made good use of our profits, we have plenty in reserve for other projects during the coming year.

And of course we mustn't forget to report the excellent results achieved by our members on the day – including a jackpot won by Robyn Carrington in level 5 – way to go Robyn!! Denise Hutton scored a 6th and 2nd in Level 3, Anna a 2nd and 3rd, and reserve Jackpot in Level 1, and I managed a 2nd and 4th in level 2. No placings in Level 4, but only because we didn't have anyone entered!

Meze Night

Our dinner at Café Z was a hoot! 20+ members stuffed themselves on yummy Turkish food, of which there seemed to be an endless and varied supply, and were entertained by a suitably seductive belly dancer. John Linton was the target of her gyrations, and proved himself to be no mean gyrator himself!! We also had friends from other clubs, including Sonja Eckberg (President of the HRC AV) who joined us as the token member from Kangaroo Ground. Many other KG people wanted to come, but the timing fell right in the middle of Top Teams Horse Trials, and they had a strong contingent over-nighting at Wandin. I think we should aim to do one of these social nights a couple of times a year, spreading ourselves around the local venues. Perhaps someone would like to volunteer to organize the next one, maybe in November?

Planning Meetings

On Wednesday 1 July, the respective Executive Committees of the Eltham Horse and Pony Club and ERARC met to discuss future plans and a closer working relationship. This was a very genial and productive meeting, and bodes well for ongoing co-operation between the clubs. In addition, an earlier meeting was held with representatives of Nillumbik Council and the two clubs, to discuss the outcome for the clubs of the Eltham Lower Park Masterplan. Our representative on the ELP Planning Committee are Cindy Edward and Sue McLennan, and Cindy attended the meeting on our behalf. Lionel Ward kindly made a record of the meeting, which appears below.

Rallies

We have been lucky with the weather and have enjoyed some great rallies recently, though numbers have been variable. Just a brief reminder that it really helps with booking instructors if I know you are coming, (or not, if you have already said you are) though I am happy to say that most members are now doing that consistently – thanks!

Pony Club Dressage Day

There is still time to enter the Pony Club's dressage day scheduled for 26th July – they have an open section of Prelim and Novice, and their program is attached. It is a good opportunity to participate in a low key event on your home turf.

Happy Riding

Ingrid



The sun glints through the trees as the thick cold fog finally lifts...our friends from Acheron, (Helen riding) with Peter Smith (life member).

NILLUMBIK MEETING RE PONY CLUB LEASE/LICENCE

Wednesday, 17 June, 2009

Present: Darren, Howard and Tanya from Nillumbik
Brad, Tony, Rob and Lionel from EDHPC
Cindy from Adult Riders
Helen Coleman, local Councillor

Introduction: Darren Bennett summarised the outcome of the Eltham Lower Park (ELP) Master Plan from the equestrian point of view, emphasising that ERARC/EDHPC should consider themselves very fortunate, having achieved outcomes well beyond the expectations/hopes of many people. Darren recognised the important role played by Helen Coleman in supporting equestrian interests.

Car Parking: The Council has already moved to prepare a suitable car park on the old nursery section of Lenister Park Farm. It will be designated as a public car park, but we will be able to close the car park for public use on days where either club is hosting an external event. Clubs expressed a preference for crushed rock, but that could create problems for run-off from rainfall (to the wet lands), so the surface choice was left to Nillumbik to take into account all practicalities. Nillumbik will be responsible for landscaping and will plan to establish two water points.

If either club expects entries well in excess of the capacity of that car park, we can apply for a one-off permit to park some floats in the area near the current toilet block (but we must note that the area will change substantially over the next couple of years).

Environment Management Plan: This plan will apply primarily to the existing cross-country area and will be developed jointly by Nillumbik and EDHPC (ERARC expressed no direct involvement with cross-country). Tanya will represent Nillumbik in a consultative process that could commence before 30 June. Although Council will have overall responsibility for implementation of the plan over two or three years, the costs of implementation will be shared between Council and Equestrian. In that context, in-kind contributions by the clubs (eg, planting seedlings provided by Nillumbik) will be included as part of the equestrian contribution to the total development costs. There may also be opportunities for the clubs to apply for grants from Melbourne Water, either separately or in conjunction with Friends of Diamond Creek.

During this discussion, there was no mention of major constraints to the cross-country area that can be used by Eltham Pony Club. Tanya indicated that there were two or three examples of trees that could be desirably fenced off, but no mention of the dumbbell shaped area proposed by the Master Plan. In this discussion, it was also clarified that the pony club would be expecting to use the cross-country course once a month for training (February-November) as well as a couple of times for external events and/or clinics.

Fencing Requirements: From the outset of developing the Master Plan, Nillumbik has insisted that the cross-country area should be fenced off totally, including along the boundary between cross-country and the ménage. When the cross-country is not in use the public will have access to the area. The emphasis on this requirement is based on advice from Nillumbik's insurers that there must be no chance of public visitors being hurt/traumatised by a horse out of control.

There was no chance of that position being changed, but Nillumbik did grant a concession by agreeing to site the internal fence along the course of the water drainage that runs down to the water jump. That would place the water jump, mound jump and grassed area inside the leased area and away from normal public access, and make it available for jumps training on a regular basis. Council also conceded that at least two large internal gates will need to be installed. One will allow access to the water jump and mound during cross-country training; a second will provide equestrian access to the cross-country from the western end of the leased area.

As in the case of the environmental management, the costs will be shared, but, again, we can contribute in-kind by undertaking some of the erection of the fence. The type of the fence will be determined in consultation with the clubs, but it could be like the fence around the re-vegetated area adjacent to the clubs' current parking area. It was agreed that there should be no need to make the fence dog proof, but there needs to be complementarity with the environmental plan.

Lease and Licence: The two clubs presently have a lease on the ménage areas (it's on overhold at present) which means we have exclusive use of the area and can, if we choose, deny public access. The cross-country area is licensed (again, on hold) which means we must make the land available to public usage except at designated times when public access can be denied (by shutting external gates). That designation will be contained in the licence agreement.

The lease and licence will be issued once we have signed off on the environmental and fencing obligations. They will be for a period of five years with option for a four-year extension. Nine years is the maximum we can expect, because for a period of ten years or more the application has to be issued for public comment – which would put us back at square one! The fee will probably start at the current \$200 per year, but the Council is presently reviewing all leases and licences in order to remove obvious inequities. Thus, in a year or two, there could be an upward adjustment, but the Council reps said they wouldn't expect the equestrian clubs to be severely disadvantaged because we are low-budget clubs that offer sport/recreational opportunities to girls/women.

Facility Development: In implementing the ELP Master Plan, priority will be given to car parking, environmental planning, fencing and the finalisation of leases/licences. However, the Council still recognises the need to upgrade our club house and equipment sheds. It will be up to the clubs to prepare proposals, without being too ambitious. That need not exclude the possibility of

planning a new club house building, noting that there will be opportunities to apply for funding assistance, including from state government sources, conceivably with help from our local member, Steve Herbert.

RALLY & RING DRAG SCHEDULE

| Date | Time | Activity | Members on Duty |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| July | After Sat Rally | Arena Dragging | Vicky |
| Saturday 18 th July | 10.30 | Dressage – Contact Anna | Leah |
| Tuesday 19 th July | 10.30 | Pay rally – Contact Ingrid | N/A |
| Tuesday 26 th July | 10.30 | Pay rally – Contact Ingrid | N/A |
| August | After Sat Rally | Arena Dragging | Melinda S |
| Tuesday 4 th August | 10.30 | Dressage – Contact Ingrid | Denise |
| Tuesday 11 th August | 10.30 | Pay rally – Contact Ingrid | N/A |
| Saturday 15 th August | 10.30 | Pay rally – Contact Anna | Ann & Harry |
| Tuesday 18 th August | 10.30 | Dressage – Contact Ingrid | N/A |
| Tuesday 25 rd August | 10.30 | Pay rally – Contact Ingrid | N/A |

| Roster | for | Smudging | of | Grounds | | |
|-----------|------------------|--------------------|----|---------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| | <i>EH&PC</i> | <i>Family Name</i> | | <i>Adult Riders</i> | <i>Family Name</i> | |
| Feb | | Brocksopp | | Completed | Hutton | Completed |
| March | | Buzzard | | Completed | | |
| April | | Cator | | Completed | McLennan | Completed |
| May | | Dempsey | | Completed | Newman | Completed |
| June | | Painter-dodds | | Completed | Carrington | Completed |
| July | | Hosier | | | Udal | |
| August | | Keskinen | | | Saldanderi | |
| September | | Jonhson | | | Mock | |
| October | | Peak | | | Simmons | |
| November | | Tsarouhous | | | Fitzsimons | |
| December | | Vasilopoulos | | | Norris | |
| Jan | | Wiltshire | | | Sampreri | |

Out and About

This should have been reported some time back:
 Linda placed 3rd at Yea dressage in April
 15/6 Glenvale J/P at NEC: Ingrid and Tarnie 2nd Level 2

Comings and Goings:

Viv has sold her lovely young mare to Emalee Weston, and has acquired a super moving young gelding, soon to be broken in.

Ingrid has acquired (on lease at this stage) a Cleveland Bay X TB mare, WP Tequila.

Denise brought Terry Hutton's new (to riding club, anyway) Percheron X gelding, Bundy, to rally this week, and he behaved very creditably for a 4yo.

Coming Events:

19/7 Horse Trials, Bulla

25/26 Dressage J/P Doongala (possibly also 24th, for L3 due to huge entries)

2/8 Combined Training, Whittlesea; Horse Trials, Peninsula at Tooradin

5/8 Midweek dressage, Beveridge

8/8 Dressage mini series J/P Hidden Valley @ Lancefield

9/8 TTT Navigation Ride Gisborne

16/8 Dressage J/P Seymour

16/8 Show, Woodlands @ Oaklands Hunt Club

Classifieds:

Bev Seddon still has frozen semen available to German stallion Damzey, at a heavily discounted rate of \$1200 ono. If you are thinking of breeding in the coming season, give her a call.