



# Whip Around



December 2016

A Publication of the NSW Branch of the ACDS Inc

[www.carriagedrivingnsw.org.au](http://www.carriagedrivingnsw.org.au)

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**2016/2017**

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North Coast Club member Rowena Walker with her pony Pippin, enjoying a run around the cones (H Naylor)

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT 'WHIP AROUND' February 18 2017**

**Next Meeting: NSW Branch Meeting at Bathurst on  
February 18 2017**

Usual charge for morning tea and lunch payable on the day  
Please notify the Secretary Amanda Blakeley of intention to attend by February 10 2017  
Ph: 0417 228 814 or [carriagedrivingnsw@live.com.au](mailto:carriagedrivingnsw@live.com.au)

## NSW ACDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2017

***IMPORTANT ! Club Secretaries – Always submit proposed calendar dates to the Calendar Coordinator Garry Harris ( [gjharris@live.com.au](mailto:gjharris@live.com.au) or ph 02 6942 6762 ) for checking, to avoid clashes with other events, particularly similar nearby or close interstate events.***

DATE	EVENT DETAILS	CONTACT
<b>Jan</b>	<b>2017</b>	
14	CDE Officials Clinic at Jugiong	Tracey Ellis 0402 854 696
15	Pleasure Drive at Jugiong Riverina Club	Sue Fraser 02 6920 2330
21	CDE Officials Clinic at Singleton	Tracey Ellis 0402 854 696
23-31	Bram Chardon Clinic Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 02 4886 6859
25-26	Graded Dressage & Mini CDE at Hinemoa Ellmore Club	Kookie Engelsman 02 63433292
27-29	Mini Enduro at Yalbraith Goulburn Club	Robert Allport 02 4832 1860
<b>Feb</b>		
4	Evening BBQ at Londonderry Hills Club	Andrea Casper 02 9450 2748
12	Navigation / Observation Drive at Oakville Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
12	Dressage Refresher Clinic at Yass venue TBC Dressage Panel	Sue Plath 02 4841 0636
18	NSW Branch Meeting at Bathurst	Amanda Blakeley 0417 228 814
25-26	Graded Dressage & Munro Cup at Witwood Bungendore Club	Jen Brennan 0403 062 340
<b>Mar</b>		
3-5	Susan Carter Clinic, Anne Synnot Cup and Mini CDE at Murrumbateman Canberra Club	Judy Harris 0438 880 458
12	Activity Day Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
<b>Apr</b>		
1-2	Joe Hawkins Cup CDE at Marrar Riverina Club	Sue Fraser 02 6920 2330
6 - 19	SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW	
15-22	Fifield Enduro Central West Club	Gaye Lees 0427 624 984
22-23	Horsepower at Aria Park Riverina Club	Sue Fraser 02 6920 2330
23	Club Day Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
29	NSW Driven Dressage Championships & Cones Classic Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
30	NSW Show Driving Championships at Manilla Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
<b>May</b>		
6-7	Level 3 CDE at Witwood Bungendore Club	Dot Willcoxson 02 4842 7164
13	Navigation Drive Ellmore Club	Peter Lotherington 02 63431474
14	Junior Challenge & Sports Day at Rossmore Hills & Camden Clubs	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
28	NSW Show Judges & Drivers School venue TBC	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
<b>June</b>		
4-10	Henry Lawson Pilgrimage Drive Gulgong Club	Leroy Trengove 02 6375 9629
17	NSW Branch AGM & General Meeting at Bathurst	Amanda Blakeley 0417 228 814
23-25	Federal ACDS AGM & Conference at Sovereign Hill Vic	Sue Waters 03 5983 6629
<b>July</b>		
9	Winter Gymkhana at Rossmore Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
16	Anniversary Lunch and AGM at RDA Box Hill Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
<b>Aug</b>		
28	Club Day Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
<b>Sept</b>		
9-10	Level 3 CDE at Murrumbidgee Club	Kerry Rosetta 0428 414 518
10	Training Day at Rossmore Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
16-24	Charity Drive Liverpool Range Club	Judy Tonkiss 02 6760 3018
25	Social Dinner Hills Club	Linda Ongley 02 96261373
<b>Oct</b>		
8	Dressage Cones & Mini Marathon Day at Rossmore Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
22-23	Level 3 CDE at Murrumbateman Canberra Club	Judy Harris 0438 880 458
28-29	Level 3 CDE at Hinemoa Ellmore Club	Kookie Engelsman 02 63433292
28	Trivia Night at RDA Box Hill Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085
<b>Nov</b>		
26	Club Day Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 02 9606 6085

Debbie Dunn competing at the Ellmore Club  
Mini CDE (T Smith)

## **CLUB NEWS**

### **ELLMORE CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB**

Chuckie Radnedge: The sun has started to shine again and there has been much activity by all Ellmore members in the last couple of months. After we had to postpone our Level 3 CDE due to flooding, we ran the event on November 12/13. With lower than expected numbers, we decided to change the event to a Mini CDE, which was well received by all who attended. Well done to all the competitors and a huge thank you to all the club members who were at the working bee beforehand, and then came to help at the event.

Unfortunately no one from Ellmore competed at the recent NSW CDE Championships, but we did support the event through sponsorship. Several members are heading down to the NSW Dressage Championships at Marrar on November 26 and we wish them all the best of luck.

### **TEMORA CARRIAGE CLUB**

On Sunday November 13 Sharon Beattie went to the Ellmore Club's Training Weekend to help out. She was originally asked to do the TPR for their CDE but it was later downgraded to a Mini CDE and training weekend. On Saturday Sections A and D of the planned marathon were driven as a pleasure drive, and on Sunday a 7km Section E was run. There were six drivers. Sharon did the TPR when the horses were unharnessed to give everyone an idea of where the heart rates were just after work, then again after hosing, and lastly after thirty minutes. The beginner CDE drivers were amazed at the drops in heart rate. Sharon answered questions they had on TPR and then everyone went across to the house for lunch. It was a friendly, relaxed weekend for beginners in CDE. The horse section of the Temora Show was unable to be run on show day in September due to the condition of the grounds, so was moved to November 19. Sharon Beattie helped by keeping up a supply of cool drinks and food for the judges in the seven rings. Whilst there, she was able to plan where and when a possible carriage driving activity could run at next year's show.

Still to come this year for the club will be providing rides at the Temora Christmas Party and the Aria Park Village's Christmas Party, with the club's Christmas party being held after those events are over.

### **NORTH COAST CARRIAGE CLUB**

Heidi Naylor: The North Coast Carriage Club had another successful day at Glenreagh Recreation Reserve on November 5. Braving 35°C heat, gusting winds and a freshly ripped arena, a few dedicated (and I use that word euphemistically) harness enthusiasts had a play around. Having recently joined a Facebook group that poses online driving challenges every month, I decided to inflict them upon the membership. The purpose of each challenge is simply to get out and get it done, to encourage purposeful practice and driving, rather than bringing home ribbons. The vast majority of the challenge competitors are in the UK and are used to experiencing sleet, mud and bitterly cold winds – quite removed from the driving conditions we were experiencing on the day!

I, having won last month's online challenge, am now skiting that I have won an international driving competition, and that Mr Exell and Mr Peel better watch out. However, I am failing to mention that I won the 'halloween challenge' dressed as a witch and being pulled by a mini horse whilst surfing on a red plastic toboggan. At any rate, this month's challenge included a 20m circle, (surprisingly harder than it looks), driving over tarps, doing serpentines, picking up and relocating a basket full of carrots, an L shape to navigate through and lastly a nice halt and salute. The most challenging part of the course turned out to be the halt. I think if we could all improve on one aspect of our driving it would be teaching our horses and ourselves a good halt, and the patience to stay halted!

Rowena drove the delightful Pippin, such a sweet and pleasurable Dartmoor cross that you can see why Dartmoors are renowned as excellent driving ponies. He has a perpetually interested look on his face, particularly at the sight of the carrot basket. Lauren Booth brought the ever reliable Dublin and the soon to be started Tex. Dublin recently proved his steadfast nature, narrowly escaping being hit by a motor vehicle when pulling the heavy (and costly) vis-à-vis vehicle. Lauren was exiting a roundabout and a motorist overtook her. The exit lane was single width and bordered by concrete traffic islands, so there was nowhere to go. Fortunately Dublin, the carriage and Lauren survived the situation unscathed. The motorist didn't miscalculate or misjudge, they just didn't care. Lauren is now committed to purchasing a

Go-Pro so that in the event of such reckless endangerment occurring again, she can provide evidence to the police if necessary.



Junior driver Tully Naylor driving Honey with his mother Heidi as the groom (S Naylor)

Hilary and Steven Graham were both suffering the effects of a summer cold, but still brought along Poncho to drive in the marathon carriage. Steve and Poncho are probably our most speedy members, but so blessedly uncompetitive! They are the epitome of driving for the sake of pleasure rather than for ribbons. The relationship both Hilary and Steve have with their horses is borne of patience and natural horse sense.

Anne Van Rijn brought along Cassie, who is just learning the sights and sounds of harness, and is currently up to long reining. Good solid groundwork is the necessary foundation of a reliable harness horse, and we hope Anne learns to like carriage driving in whatever arena she chooses, like the rest of us. Scott's and my son Tully Naylor, aged 9, had his first 'solo' drive of his pony Honey, whilst I was there with the second set of reins. It was the first time he had driven completely unassisted. Heidi thinks they are both steadily improving.

The last meeting of the year for the club will be the Christmas Party to be held on the Dorrigo Plateau. Hopefully it will be cooler up the mountain and we can have a pleasure drive or two, together with lots of food! From all the North Coast Carriage Club, to all our fellow NSW carriage driving members, we hope that the Christmas holidays are kind to you and your horses, and that Santa brings you harness and vehicles in abundance, ACDS compliant helmets and the energy and time to use them!

#### **RIVERINA CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY**

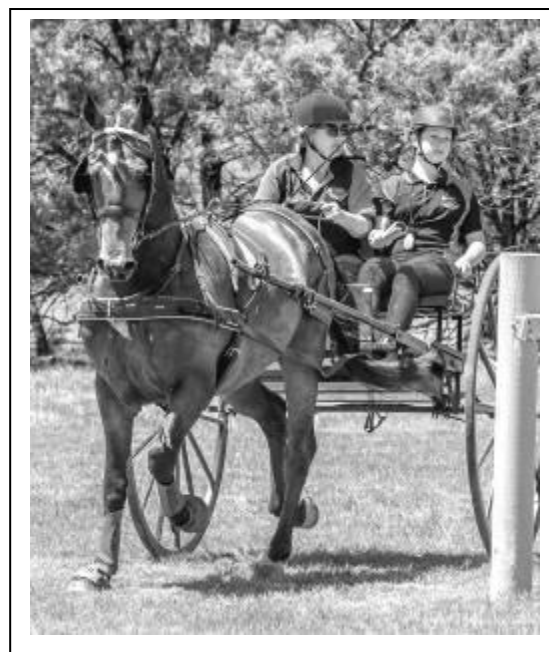
Sue Fraser: Our club has rallies on the fourth Sunday of each month but with the heavy rain, this has mostly been an impossibility of late. However on October 23 a pleasure drive was planned from Milbrulong to Lockhart and return, a trip of approximately 35km. Mal Welsh drove Ruby with Isaac Feber as groom and Sue Fraser drove Banda. They harnessed up at the Milbrulong Recreation Grounds. The Riverina is an absolute picture following the rain, with lush green paddocks and

fantastic crops just waiting to be harvested. The drive was on dirt roads perfect for carriage driving, and included a crossing of the railway line which carries grain from the silos in harvest time. We made quite a noise trotting down the main street of the historic veranda town of Lockhart. A picnic in the park was had, near the famous iron work kangaroos of the Festival of the Land, and we even passed a dragon. More pleasure drives are planned, with the next being the Jugiong to Binalong drive in January.

#### **CAMDEN HARNESS CLUB**

A club drive was held in Camden's Bicentennial Park in October organized by Sally Crowell. Those there were Carol Fitzpatrick driving Louie and Ned with groom Greg McDonald, Louise Lyons driving Gumpy, Sally Crowell with Pepsi and Carolyn and Jeanna Kinleyside driving one of their standardbreds. Greg also took along his new horse for it to experience the carriage driving atmosphere.

Several members took part in the NSW CDE Championships and Level 3 CDE at Witwood in early November. Carol Fitzpatrick was the TPR steward, Greg and Alison McDonald groomed for Kerry Izzard and Tracey Ellis respectively in the Championships, and Maxine Saliba with groom Jeanna Kinleyside competed in the Level 3 CDE, driving Katut. It was Katut's first CDE, a new experience for Jeanna, and Maxine had not done a CDE for some years, so their combined effort in coming first in their class was very meritorious. The club is running a dressage and cones instruction day with Sue Plath on November 27 at Rossmore and its Christmas party will be at Camden in early December.



Maxine Saliba and groom Jeanna Kinleyside in an MO at the Witwood Level 3 CDE (KK Equine Photography)

## **SOUTHERN HIGHLANDS CARRIAGE CLUB**

Yvonne Wood: The Southern Highlands Club has had a busy last couple of months, having conducted three activities, each relating to different aspects of carriage driving.

First was the Attelage de Tradition held at the end of August. This was conducted partly at the Warrigal Care Facility in Bundanoon and partly at the Club's grounds. Warrigal residents were treated to morning tea whilst watching the judging of all the classes of vehicles, ranging from authentic period to CDE and pleasure vehicles. The judges were Wendy and Owen Ragg from Mittagong.

This brought back many fond memories for the elderly residents, who thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings, whilst chatting about times long gone. Including Warrigal in the event was very much appreciated by the staff and residents, particularly as it was an activity which had great meaning to many of the residents.

All the participants then made their way back to the Southern Highlands Club grounds where six tasks testing various skills awaited them. Scores from all the day's activities were added together to find the winners in each category. Another winner was the mulled wine enjoyed by all. It was probably the thing that kept Lyn Dominish on her feet whilst suffering from a bout of winter flu!

The next event for the club was the Graded Dressage and Teams Challenge weekend early in October. There were competitors from Victoria and South Australia as well as NSW. This was a true 'fun' event. The prize for the Best Team Name brought forward some great names such as 'Fifty Shades of Hay', the 'Whinnying Team' and 'Three Shades of Awesome' to name a few. The Club was very pleased with the number of entries and everyone reported it was a fun, relaxed and most enjoyable weekend of driving. Just what we need!

Just a few days after the Teams Challenge came the Bram Chardon Clinic. Sixty eight lessons were given to ACDS members from nine NSW clubs, two South Australian clubs and three Victorian clubs. Bram also showed some very informative training dvds, and spoke a little about his latest competition experiences in Europe. He explained how, after an event is over, he examines in detail the mistakes he has made in competition, then practices and practices the correct methods. Thus each mistake is turned into a positive for the next competition.



Jane Knight driving Belle over the bridge at the Teams Challenge Event (J Knight)

All participants really enjoyed their lessons, and went away with a renewed and positive energy to keep working on what they had learned, just what is needed to improve the standards in the sport. Better training also increases the enjoyment and pride in being able to show improvement, when working towards the goal of having a well mannered and well trained animal. In addition, this animal is much safer to drive.

The Southern Highlands Club plans to keep Bram coming back to Bundanoon twice a year for clinics. Anyone who would like to avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity, contact Yvonne Wood on 02 4883 6859 or [woodsies2@bigpond.com](mailto:woodsies2@bigpond.com). Demand for lessons is extremely high so it is advised to book in as soon as possible.

### **HILLS DISTRICT HARNESS CLUB**

Several members organized an impromptu mid week drive in Scheyville National Park at Maraylya in early October. Those who attended were Angela Eberle, Lynne Buckingham, Karen Silvester, Thelma and Rob Nichols, Andrea and Dennis Casper and Christine Dunn. They really enjoyed the off road driving, with plenty of quiet bushland tracks to explore.

Belinda Casper driving Indi, and Thelma and Rob Nichols with Oscar and Charlie, once again had much appreciated lessons with Bram Chardon at Bundanoon in October. Belinda then competed at the NSW CDE Championships at Witwood at the start of November and came second in the Novice Horse class. Another Hills member, Keri Izzard, won the Intermediate Pony class.

The club held its annual Trivia Night on October 29 at the RDA at Box Hill, with some new faces at the helm. Belinda Casper was the organizer and her husband Mark was the new trivia master. The twenty or so participants had a great time coming up with answers, some relatively easy, others quite hard. However, with five or six minds being put to the task at each table, generally there's someone who knows *something*, even though it may not always be correct. There was certainly plenty of excitement when someone got a fairly obscure answer right. At the end, points were added up and

the winning table of Andrea and Dennis Casper, Lynne Buckingham and Rob and Thelma Nichols received stylishly wrapped prizes from Belinda. The people at the other tables also received gifts for their efforts. Supper followed and the night was voted a great success.

The last activity for the year will be the club's Christmas lunch and auction on December 11, at the RDA Centre, Box Hill.

A BBQ at the Mannix's at Londonderry will start off 2017 for the club, and the first driving event of the year will be an Observation/Navigation drive at The Vines Pony Club at Oakville on February 12 2017.

#### LIVERPOOL RANGE HARNESS CLUB

Adventures into new territory continue for the Liverpool Range Club. This time a terrific driving weekend was held on October 21-23 2016, organized by Bill Greer and Sam Williams who is a Gulgong Club member. It was on the historic property Thornthwaite near Scone. The drive was very well supported with 23 people attending and twelve sulkies being driven. Liverpool Range members included Bill and Trish Greer, Peter and Trish Honeyman, Alison and Darcy Richards, Malcolm and Donna Grace, Mark Murphy, Ron and Colleen Miller and Geoff Skewes, from the Gulgong Club were Sam and Rody Williams, Neil and Rosemary Munn and Leroy and Jo Trengove, and Rosemary Laing came from the Hunter Club. Thornthwaite is a working cattle property now owned by the Paspaley Group, famous for their pearls. It covers 6666 hectares and is currently carrying 2000 Hereford cattle. The first wine grapes in the Hunter Valley were planted there in the 1800s and the first photograph of an Australian cricket match was taken there, also in the 1800s. This game was re enacted in September this year, to raise funds for the Scone Hospital. The homestead and outbuildings are recognized by the National Trust and are in good order.



Going through a gateway on the Thornthwaite drive (P Honeyman)

We had the privilege of camping at the woolshed and utilizing the shearers' facilities. It is always lovely to recapture a part of Australian history, and the classer's cottage, the dining hall, sleeping quarters and shower block took us back to another era! Together with the wonderful old shearing shed with its sandstone dip, and the ancient ovens in the kitchen, these all told a story of a bustling life of toil and reward.

Most drivers arrived early on Friday and with the weather forecast looking a bit damp on Saturday, they were keen to head out for an afternoon drive. Sadly for Donna Grace, her horse pulled up lame early into the drive and she had to return to camp, thus missing the lovely 20km drive.



Traversing more of the beautiful countryside on the Thornthwaite drive (J Trengove)

The valley was lush, the creeks full with a fresh, and the views towards the famous mountain called the Wingen Maid just beautiful. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon drive. During the day Doug and Sally Jones joined us and camped in the shearers' quarters overnight, before having to leave to go to a funeral on Saturday.

As predicted the rain commenced during the night, bringing with it wild winds which created havoc for everyone's camps. Saturday brought lots of socializing and many cups of tea and coffee in the mess hall, filling in the hours. Don and Lyn Thomas arrived in their caravan to join us. Lyn's great grandmother was baptized at Thornthwaite, possibly in the station church, which is still standing. They were keen to see the area and relive some family history.



The shearers' huts at Thornthwaite (P Honeyman) With the skies meant to clear in the early afternoon, lots of discussions were had regarding

whether a drive would happen. Being always good troopers, everyone geared up in preparation. Surprisingly, then the sun broke out and everyone set out on a great drive of 24km about 3.30pm, returning via the Homestead Block about 5.30pm. The hot showers afterwards were very welcome, and a big night was had around the campfire. Sunday's drive was over a distance of 44km so lunches were packed before heading out at 10am.



A road stretching into the distance at Thornthwaite (P Honeyman)

Along the drive we saw lots and lots of horses, making it easy to understand why there is so much competition between Scone and Tamworth as to which is truly the horse capital of Australia. The picnic lunch spot gave great views towards Gundy and Aberdeen. Someone who was chuffed about being there was Mark Murphy, as we were not far from his home, which is owned by his famous boss Malcolm Turnbull.

Thank you to Bill Greer and Sam Williams for organizing a wonderful weekend. Hopefully more collaboration between the clubs can occur again soon.

The Liverpool Range Club will wind down its driving season with a Christmas celebration to be held at Peter and Trish Honeyman's home on Saturday November 26. Peter already has in mind some great drives for 2017 but would welcome input from anyone who is interested in hosting other drives.

**TAMWORTH REGIONAL HORSE DRAWN CLUB**

The club recently held a day of scenic drives based at Sue Kelly's property at Wallamore. The morning drive was around Sue's property. Lunch was followed by another drive along the country



Driving through a paddock on Sue Kelly's property (E O'Brien)

The North and Northwest APSB Show at Manilla attracted a good contingent of Tamworth Club members, all of whom came home with ribbons and prizes. Lizzette Ferguson had her new pony Miss Honeypot there and she took to showing like a duck to water.

The Club is holding a Dressage School followed by a Graded Dressage Day on the weekend of November 26/27 2016, at Moonbi, and its Christmas party will be lunch on December 4 at the Nemingha Tavern.

**GOULBURN DISTRICT HORSE DRAWN VEHICLE SOCIETY**

Robert Allport:

**Vale: Nell Emerton**

On a sad note we mourn the passing of one of our foundation members Nell Emerton, who passed away on November 14 2016. Nell will be remembered for her love of ponies, showing them at local shows as well as the Sydney Royal. She had great pleasure and achievement especially with James Park Dublin, a pony bred by Arty Emery, driven in a Sydney Brass sulky, and also shown in led classes. Nell also enjoyed the social activities in association with the Sydney Royal Show. Nell accompanied Allen Smith as groom in many Australian and State CDE Championships, where they finished in the top three on a number of occasions.

In latter years she shared pleasure drives and camp outs with fellow Goulburn Club members, enjoying the experience of the slower pace. Allen drove whilst she yarned and groomed.

Nell was a life member of the now thirty year old Goulburn Club.

We extend our deepest sympathy to daughters Judy and Alyson, sons in law Robbie and Murray and grandchild Kiarna.

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Robert, Damon and Kimberly Allport recently competed in the Reedy Creek Club's Enduro at

Marrar, gaining first and third in the Half Enduro Horse Section. It was a great event enjoyed by all who attended.

Preparations are in the final stages for the Yalbraith Enduro on January 27-29 2017. All drivers - have a think about taking a trip to the beautiful countryside around Yalbraith, making new friends or renewing old friendships, and enjoying the fresh country air and the Goulburn Club's hospitality. For more information call Robert Allport on 0427 916 524. Entries close on Friday January 6 2017 and don't forget to bring your ironing board for the Best Decorated Ironing Board at the enduro!

### **BUNGENDORE CARRAGE DRIVING SOCIETY**

Jen Brennan: The Bungendore Club hosted the NSW CDE Championships and a Level 3 CDE on November 5/6 2016. The event was very successful with over thirty competitors. We were particularly grateful to all the Victorian competitors who made the journey to Witwood, not to forget our newest member Linden Barry from South Australia.

Club members Tamara Abed, Molli Mercer and Byron McIntyre won their Championship classes, and Lisa Harrington won her class in the Level 3 CDE. We were grateful to our sponsors Gladiator Floats, Scribblegum, Southern Highlands Carriage Club, Ellmore Carriage Driving Club, North Coast Carriage Club, Bungendore Veterinary Surgery, The Feed Shed, Cooma Rural, The Love Shack, Atlas Windows, Heavenly Horse Designs, John Shortt Custom Saddler, Horse Deals, Birdsnest, Love My Horse Rugs, Dutailis Saddlery, South East Rural Cooma, Prydes Easifeeds and Braidwood CRT.

Sean Brennan took his first load of donated helmets for underprivileged youth in Botswana last month. Many thanks to the people who donated their (soon to be) non compliant helmets. There will be many people who will be genuinely grateful. The Bungendore Club is happy to receive further donations of helmets in good condition.



Bungendore member Molli Mercer on the marathon at the NSW CDE Championships (T Tritchler)

### **MURRUMBIDGEE CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB**

Robyn Schmetzer: The Murrumbidgee Club held a pleasure drive on October 23 to experience the course we have mapped out for our CDE in September 2017. All agreed it was a lovely drive off busy roads.



On the Murrumbidgee Club pleasure drive  
(N Barry)

The Rosettas delivered, and Phil safely stored away, our long awaited international driving cones. We are very excited to be able to now run events with the best of equipment. Members stayed for the club meeting with discussion centred on the new obstacles and other equipment needed to run events. We followed this with a lovely BBQ lunch. CDE drivers are reminded again to keep the weekend of September 9/10 2017 free to compete at the Murrumbidgee Club's Level 3 CDE at Murrami, and be in the running to win the *fantastic holiday package prize* of accommodation and boat hire to the value of \$2000 from major sponsors *Alonga Waterfront Cottages* at Sussex Inlet. See [alongacottages.com.au](http://alongacottages.com.au) . Contact Kerrie Rosetta on 0428 414 518 or email [rosymoon@bigpond.com](mailto:rosymoon@bigpond.com)

### **HUNTER HORSE DRIVING SOCIETY**

Rosemary Laing: it was a last minute decision to go to the Thornthwaite drive as Tinker was only put right by the chiropractor on the Thursday morning before. However he assured me that it would be OK to carry on as normal, so we arrived at Thornthwaite at lunchtime on the Friday. We had the use of the shearers' quarters for humans and the sheep yards for our horses. Bill Greer had reserved a room for me with a real bed and electric light so it was luxury camping.



This is an historic property where the first Australian cricket match to be photographed took place. It is now re enacted each year. We were impressed by the original sheep dip which is about 20 metres long and carved out of solid rock, and by the shearers' kitchen which had a huge fuel stove and several smaller bread ovens and must have been unbearably hot for the cook, as it was only a small room.

Nine sulkies set out on a short drive on Friday afternoon, which took us along a quiet road through the Thornthwaite property. The weather was warm and sunny and it was good to try Tinker out over a short distance. Happily she was back to her old self. Unfortunately Donna Grace had to turn back as her horse Bob became lame.

We had dinner round a good fire. Then it started to drizzle so we sat out under umbrellas for a while. When it became more serious some of us went to bed, while the 'party animals' carried on in the 'Fox and Hounds,' a room used by Hunter Valley Hunt Club who meet there regularly. During the night it blew a gale and many were kept awake by rocking floats and flapping tarps. I was very glad of my little room.

Saturday dawned wet and windy. Bill Greer assured us that it was 'rain before seven so fine by eleven.' We sat inside checking the forecast at regular intervals. Darcy and Allison Richards arrived in spite of the weather, eleven o'clock came and went, but by three it was easing and we decided to postpone the planned long drive till Sunday and do the shorter drive. It was another very pleasant drive, which included a tricky manoeuvre down and up a steep bank to get round a grid. However it was safely negotiated by all. The weather was steadily improving and the sun was shining by the end of the drive. We drove back past the homestead, a lovely old building. While we were out, the vet had been to visit Bob and treated him for an abscessed foot. Bob was looking more comfortable by the time we returned. On Sunday, in beautiful sunshine, we drove along a few kilometres of tar before getting onto a good dirt road with great views of the Mt Royal Ranges. We stopped for lunch by some stock yards with water for the horses, before driving back to camp to pack up and go home. We had covered 85km over the weekend and Tinker handled it well.

This driving weekend was a joint effort between the Liverpool Range and Gulgong Clubs. A big thank you to Bill Greer and Sam Williams who were the main organizers, with help from other club members. Also special thanks to those who did escort and gate opening duties – we can't do these drives without you!

#### **GULGONG HERITAGE HARNESS ASSOCIATION**

Carol Hardaker: A joint pleasure drive organized by Sam Williams (Gulgong Club) and Bill Greer

(Liverpool Range Club) and based at the historic Thornthwaite Station near Scone was held on October 22/23 2016.



Neil and Rosemary Munn on the Thornthwaite drive  
(P Honeyman)

Sam and Rody Williams, Neil and Rosemary Munn, Leroy and Jo Trengove from the Gulgong Club, together with seven families from the Liverpool Range Club and Rosemary Laing from the Hunter Club, enjoyed a weekend of driving despite the weather doing its best to disrupt activities. The shearers' kitchen / dining room provided shelter during the storm. Following the rain on Saturday morning there was time for an afternoon drive of 20km. Sunday weather was fine and a 44km drive along the back roads overlooking Scone was completed in time for everyone to depart and arrive home in daylight hours. On November 5/6, six sulkies took part in the drive from the Recreation Grounds in the village of Birriwa near Dunedoo. Ron Miller, Colleen Dunn and Bill Greer from Liverpool Range Club joined Neil and Rosemary Munn, John and Janet Hetherington, Sam Williams, and Leroy and Jo Trengove for the weekend.

The group set out on Saturday morning travelling along lanes to the east of Birriwa, being blown along by a strong westerly wind. Whilst looking for a sheltered spot for a lunch stop, they ran into Jim Bowman (jockey Hugh Bowman's father) riding his nice creamy pony. Jim invited them to go up to the Merotherie homestead and use the yards and water for the horses. After lunch, Jim accompanied them in the sulkies back to camp. Despite the wind it was an enjoyable 35km drive. Sunday's drive headed west along more sheltered lanes to the village of Tucklan, before returning to Birriwa for lunch. It was an easy 20km trip. This was the last drive of the year for the club, finishing up before the hot weather.



Drivers in front of the Merotherie homestead  
(J Trengove)

In the New Year some fun days at the showground will be organized every few months, whilst the Heritage Drive is on the calendar for June 4-10 2017, starting at Ballimore near Dubbo.

### **REEDY CREEK EQUESTRIAN CLUB**

With Reedy Creek's Marrar Endurance Event successfully completed, members have been able to participate in some of the other clubs' activities. John Moyes and Kath Cole joined the Bungendore Club on the second day of their pleasure driving weekend at Jerrawa. They had a lovely drive and thoroughly enjoyed the company, and Tracey Kearns' amazing desserts.

Kath went across to Bundanoon to observe some of the Bram Chardon School, and is now trying to apply some of the pointers she gained to the training of the two ponies she and John have entered in the NSW Dressage Championships. They were also officials on obstacles at the NSW CDE Championships at Witwood. Meanwhile, Bob and Jan Pierce were amongst the large crowd who attended the Heavy Horse Show Driving School at Towrang on November 13.

The club will finish the year with a Christmas Obsthathon and Barbeque on the first weekend in December.

### **CANBERRA CARRIAGE DRIVING CLUB**

Penny Jacobs and Tony James represented the Canberra Club at the NSW CDE Championships at Witwood on the first weekend in November. There were 33 entries across 11 classes. The event started on a sad note as news had arrived that Chuckie Radnedge's beautiful tandem wheeler Hudson Gambler had had to be put down after a severe bout of colic. The mood in the camp was as if a good friend had died.



Tony James in the dressage at the Ellmore Club Mini CDE at Hinemoa in November (T Smith) Penny drove Zac with Elsa Guyader grooming and Tony and daughter Nina had George III there for experience. Both went well without being eliminated in the seven sophisticated obstacles. Penny finished third in the Novice Horse and Tony was fourth.

A lovely surprise was Gail Bain's visit to the event, but her return to Australia is to be very brief as she will have to set off for the Northern Hemisphere again before long.

It has been decided to make the Club's driving activity at Murrumbateman in March a Three Day event. On Friday March 3 there will be a Susan Carter Clinic, Saturday March 4 will be the Anne Synnot Graded Dressage Day and on Sunday March 5 there will be a One Hour CDE. It will be 'three days of fun with something for everybody.'

### **CENTRAL WEST HORSE DRIVING SOCIETY**

The Fifield Enduro will be run from April 15 – 22 2017, which is the second week of the school holidays. As well as endurance drivers, the organizers want to encourage others to come along to just pleasure drive over the week. There are many quiet dirt roads and lanes through the countryside in the Fifield district, eminently suitable for both endurance and pleasure driving. Contact Gaye Lees for more information on 0427 624 984.



### **LIVERPOOL RANGE HARNESS CLUB RAISES \$80,000 !!!**

By John Tonkiss (Liverpool Range Club) The Liverpool Range Harness Club ran its seventh annual Charity Drive in September 2016. The proceeds of all these drives amount to in excess of \$80,000, which the club has donated to the Royal Far West Children's Charity, whose mission is to Care for Country Kids. Liverpool Range Harness Club's involvement with Royal Far West has proven to be a very fulfilling

and satisfying partnership. It has been a chance for its members, together with other members of the ACDS, to assist children and families in need, whilst enjoying the simple pleasure of driving and socializing with fellow carriage driving enthusiasts.

This year we had over 30 participants, although we would prefer to say they are benefactors, as they are one of the main reasons we have been able to raise so much money for Royal Far West. At the same time, many members of the ACDS and the Liverpool Range Club have donated both their time and money to the cause. During each year leading up to the annual drive, they have run fund raising events, donated items including holiday accommodation, quilts and other goods for auction, timber for fires, food for the welcome meals, and followed up donation requests. You all know who you are and what you donated and/or organized, and the Liverpool Range Club greatly appreciates your support.

As in the past, Prime 7 television attended the drive and ran a story on the nightly news which went across the state. Good coverage was also received in local and Sydney newspapers.

Months of mapping out daily drives came to nothing when, due to drought breaking rain in the week leading up to the Charity Drive, all of the proposed routes, plus the base camp for the first few days at Trelawney Station, could not be accessed due to road closures and flooding.

Fortunately the second base camp at Attunga was still accessible.

Very wisely, the committee had an alternate plan in place in case flooding became a problem, and this was implemented on the Friday morning in time to inform drivers before they started to arrive on the Saturday. All the participants were advised in time of the change of the start location to Attunga, and all arrived safely albeit a bit wet. They included participants from as far away as Victoria and the NSW Riverina. Attunga Sports and Recreation Ground was a bit boggy, but with the assistance of all who attended, the camp sites, floats and horses were placed in strategic locations minimizing the potential to create a boggy mess. Over the seven years, the Charity Drive has altered from its original concept which involved moving camp each morning. As well as the horses and turnouts driving to the new night camp site, the support vehicles had to be driven there too. Drivers often found it hard to find support crew to drive their floats, so a shuttle bus was used to help solve the problem for several years.

This arrangement has now been replaced whereby moving camp is done just once, on the Wednesday of the week long drive. A lot of participants now use this day as a rest day, possibly because some are getting a little further away from their date of birth. Feedback has shown that this is now the

preferred format, and it allows all, including the organizers, to have a pleasant, more relaxing holiday with their horses.



On a quiet lane near Attunga on the Liverpool Range Club Charity Drive (P Fitzpatrick)

Due to rain disruptions this year, we arranged extra activities for the participants. We had games such as bingo, celebrity heads, closest coin to the bottle wins a bottle of rum, and 50 club, plus country music singers. As usual, socialising around the fires at night was always enjoyed. One new activity that was popular with some people was the series of yoga classes at the Attunga pub each afternoon. Participants were even presented with a Certificate of Achievement on completion of the course.

The Liverpool Range Club's plan is to always make it a fun and enjoyable week with minimal rules, but we still maintain a strict safety regime. There is always a safety meeting outlining participant requirements prior to the start of the Drive and then similar daily meetings, which must be attended by all. Front and rear escort vehicles with radio contact and equipped with danger signs and flashing beacons accompany the drivers. In addition each Liverpool Range Club driver has a hand held radio in contact with the escort vehicles. Prior to the Drive, a thorough risk assessment is done and a traffic management plan of the course is put together, as well as obtaining police and council approval to conduct the Drive.

On Saturday November 12, 2016, members of the Liverpool Range Club presented a cheque for over \$9,000 to the Quirindi Branch of the Royal Far West. This brought the total raised to over \$80,000, as stated before.



Liverpool Range Club members with President Peter Honeyman presenting this year's cheque to the Quirindi Branch Committee of Royal Far West

I take this point in time to recognize the past and present organizing committees whose hard work and commitment are the main reasons why this \$80,000 donation to the Royal Far West and the kids they help, has been possible. **JOB WELL DONE !**

*We invite all those who wish to have a good time and at the same time assist the Liverpool Range Club and the ACDS in further fund raising, to attend the 2017 Charity Drive.*

## **BRAM CHARDON SCHOOL AT BUNDANOON**

by Penny Jacobs (Canberra Club)

I have just returned home after two days of instruction with Bram Chardon at the lovely Southern Highlands Club venue at Bundanoon, and feel full of driving energy and enthusiasm. The weather was mild and pleasant which always helps a lot, and it was so nice to be out and about driving after such a *long wet winter*. The ground there was in great shape. They obviously haven't had the continual rain that we have.....strange, when we always think it will be raining at Bundanoon!

After having booked in for my pair, I downgraded to just young Zac, as I had not been able to work the pair at all in the lead up. I mustn't go on, but our place has become 'The Bog on the Hill', with washaways, sink holes and flooded creeks, so driving had become quite scary, not to mention extremely muddy.

The old timers did know a thing or two, because a sulky with two big wheels is much better at navigating difficult terrain than a vehicle with four small wheels. I was therefore able to get to the dressage arena and do some preparation.

Zac had been to a couple of events as a pair with Rocky, and having proven he could sort of cope with that (although some of you may remember our 'rear backs' and our inability to do two things at once eg trot *and* turn), I felt it was time for him to learn to perform on his own. Just going to a new environment and harnessing up with all the distractions, is sometimes enough for an inexperienced horse, so the instruction from Bram was going to be a big plus.

The grounds at Bundanoon were beautifully presented, with cones, two obstacles and the dressage arena set up for lessons, as well as plenty of room to warm up. Our lesson on day 1 consisted

of trying to get Zac into a reasonably collected frame, getting him to use his rear end and able to transition from medium trot to slow and back to medium. This doesn't sound like much but it kept us busy and the time flew past. The 45 minutes was just right so that we didn't get tired or bored, and I found Bram to be perceptive and positive in his instruction.



Bram Chardon driving Penny Jacobs' Zac at Bundanoon (P Jacobs)

It was great to be able to watch other lessons after ours, and to imagine the day when we would be out of kindergarten and flowing along with balance, rhythm and impulsion!

On day 2 I really felt we had absorbed overnight some of the things we needed to know, and we added some circles with actual bend to our repertoire. Zac was going forward with more confidence and rhythm and was 'listening' for me asking for a change of pace. We received a small ovation from the bystanders, so they must have also seen some improvement. For the last 10 minutes Bram drove Zac, and it was great for me to be able to see how he looks when he is going well!

Bram will be back here in January and I will certainly be booking in for more lessons then.

## **HEAVY HORSE SHOW DRIVING SCHOOL AT TOWRANG**

by Janet Muspratt

The Heavy Horse Show Driving School at Towrang on November 13 2016 organised by the NSW Show Driving Panel, together with Rick Jones, was very well attended and very much appreciated by everyone there. Despite the somewhat uncertain weather and strong winds which increased as the day progressed, a crowd of about fifty people arrived for the day which was based at the RFS Hall next to Rick and Kerry Jones' property in Towrang.

A number of people brought horses, harness and vehicles for demonstrations. They included Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley with their two horses – a Percheron and a Shire, and their 'rat

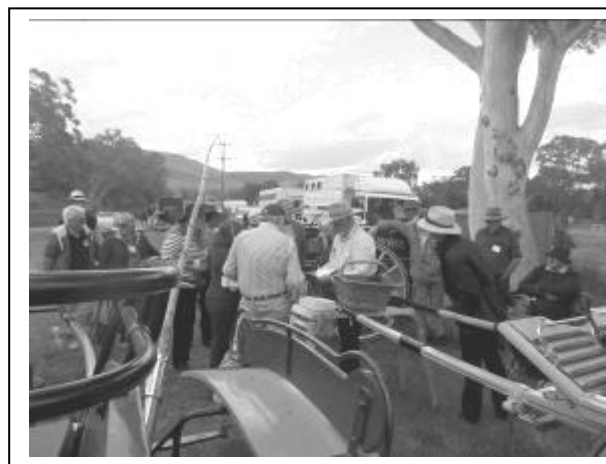
catchers' vehicle, Erin and Elizabeth Lewis with their Clydesdale and spring cart, Molli Mercer with two light delivery horses, Peta Skaines with her gypsy cob and Leicester Dewsbury with his very stylish long shafted breaking in gig. Rick Jones supplied a welsh cob plus a long shaft breaking in gig, a bread cart and a horse drawn hearse to round out the horses and vehicles on display.



Rick Jones and Leicester Dewsbury talking about Leicester's long shafted breaking in gig (C Fitzpatrick) After registration and morning tea, the day got underway in the hall at 9.30am with Rick talking about different types of heavy harness for the show ring. Several sets were on display on the hall stage and it was interesting to see the varying types of collars, saddles, winker bridles and bits and hear about their different purposes. Glen Denholme then spoke about a variety of driving whips, the way they were made, and the reasons for their different lengths. About six different whips seemed to miraculously appear from the audience to be shown during this talk.

The focus of the morning then turned to the vehicles parked on the other side of the hall so everyone moved outside, and heard interesting details of the various vehicles from their owners – Carolyn Blakeley, Leicester Dewsbury, Rick Jones and Erin Lewis. Attention was particularly drawn to the sorts of requirements and accessories judges should be looking for in business and delivery turnout classes.

The next session was about the horses, and deciding what category each would be in the show ring, either light, medium or heavy delivery horse. Rick first explained the basic features of each of these types and what they would have been used for, when working in the horse drawn era. The audience was then asked to suggest what type each of the seven horses on display was. It was good to have the horses there beside each other to compare, because this demonstrated clearly that there is great variation particularly within the light and medium category, and a few 'grey' areas.



More discussion about the delivery vehicles and their accessories (C Fitzpatrick)

Farrier Erin Lewis then spoke about preparing horses' feet, particularly those of heavy horses, for the show ring and emphasized that hoof preparation and shoeing should begin several months before a major show like the Sydney Royal, definitely not a week or so before the show, as he has sometimes come across. The merits of different types of heavy shoes were also spoken about.

Elizabeth Lewis then demonstrated how to plait the mane and tail of a Clydesdale for the show ring. For the mane she used very long strands of wool in two colours and deftly plaited them in with mane strands, the resultant plait running along the top of the neck. How to finish the plait was also demonstrated. The importance was emphasized of choosing wool colours which help enhance the horse's coat colour and the appearance of the whole turnout. Elizabeth then showed how she plaits the top of the very short tail (but not docked) of their Clydesdale, and how to secure a rosette and other decorations there.

Lunch followed this busy morning's activities. After lunch, audience people drove their cars to a paddock about a kilometre down the road to view the demonstrations of workouts. Six horses were harnessed up for the workouts, Carolyn Blakeley with Percheron mare Peg and the rat catcher's vehicle, Erin Lewis with Dylan the Clydesdale in his spring cart, Peta Skaines with her gypsy cob in Rick's long shaft break, Molli Mercer with chestnut mare Blondie in the bread cart, Leicester Dewsbury and his long shaft break driving Rick's black cob, and Rick's daughter Melisa Bensley driving Rocky, a light horse belonging to Max Pearce, and pulling the hearse. Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley also took their Shire down to the paddock to put into harness after Peg had finished her workout.



Open to all ACDS members. You do not need to become an official to attend. You may just be interested in learning more for your own benefit. Everyone is welcome from all states. Morning and afternoon tea provided. Enrolment is free, but registration is essential for catering and paperwork purposes. Advise Tracey Ellis on 0402 854 696 or [scribblegum64@gmail.com](mailto:scribblegum64@gmail.com) as soon as possible, if wanting to attend.

Erin and Elizabeth Lewis with Dylan in a spring cart  
(J Muspratt)

This variety of horses and vehicles working around the ring together was truly a great sight to see, and most unusual for anywhere outside a show such as a Royal. Rick asked each to do the workout he specified for judging a 'delivery horse' class and the audience, all safely parked and watching from behind a fence, were asked to judge the performances, along with Rick.

The gusty wind upset some of the horses but most were well behaved and put on good displays. They had to demonstrate the ability to walk and trot on the left and right rein, as well as shafting to the left and right, and reining back, things that all working heavy horses would have had to be good at. When all were finished, they lined up facing the audience and Rick asked everyone to make up their minds about placings. He then gave his placings, and explained why, for each one. It was a very interesting and worthwhile exercise for everyone. By this time it was getting on for four o'clock so it was decided to finish what had been a very informative and worthwhile day.

Many thanks to Rick and Kerry Jones and their daughter Melisa Bensley for all the work put into preparing for the day, including Kerry's preparation of the hall and making morning tea scones and biscuits. Rick also did a great job gathering together drivers, harness, horses and vehicles so that the people who came had an excellent range of heavy horse turnouts to view and hear about. Many thanks too, to these people, and especially to Erin and Elizabeth Lewis and Glen Denholme for their added contributions on the day. Lastly thank you to Rick for his presentation on the day. He is a great presenter who has a wonderful practical knowledge of 'all things horse and harness', from breaking in to showing, and is so willing to share what he knows in such an interesting way.

## **COMING EVENTS**

### **CDE Officials Clinics**

SOUTH: Saturday January 14 2017 at Jugiong Showground 9am start

NORTH: Saturday January 21 2017 at Singleton Showground 9am start

## **NOTES from the Branch Meeting at Bathurst November 19 2016**

Approx 26 members present.

Clubs represented: Bungendore, Southern Highlands, Camden, Hills, Gulgong, Goulburn, Central West, Hunter, Riverina and Canberra.

### **Panel Reports:**

#### **Show:**

\*Successful Heavy Horse Showing School at Towrang Nov 13 – approx 50 attended

\*Schools and exams for heavy horse and light horse judges and drivers planned for 2017

\*NSW SD Championships at Manilla on April 30 – organization well underway

\*National SD Championships to be in WA in 2017

\*Looking for clubs interested in hosting the 2018 NSW Show Champs – to be in April/May period.

#### **CDE:**

\*CDE Official Clinics to be held on January 14 at Jugiong, January 21 at Singleton. Open to all ACDS members, not just officials or candidate officials.

\*Indoor/Outdoor Series – possible implementation in NSW soon.

\*CDE Competition results – clubs reminded it is important to forward results to Horse Registrar & Grading Officer ([margiemorgan6@gmail.com](mailto:margiemorgan6@gmail.com)) within 14 days of the completion of the event.

#### **Dressage:**

\*Warren Ricketts has been co opted onto the Dressage Panel – has much to contribute to driven dressage and drivers in NSW

\*Train the Trainer seminar to be held in Melbourne on Nov 20. D Willcoxson and S Plath attending.

\*Dressage Judges Clinic to be held on February 12 2017 possibly at Yass.

\*If interest is sufficient, a second Dressage Judges Clinic will be held at a different location

#### **P & E:**

\*Successful Endurance event held at Marrar by Reedy Creek Club – some drivers could not stay for the whole week so 3 day and 5 day events were held to suit

\*Information now available for the 3 day Enduro at Yalbraith in January (Robert Allport 0427 916 524)

\*Hunter Club has donated an Interclub Challenge Shield for km achievement in pleasure and endurance.

\*The Nov 3 2016 edition of National Trotguide has a 2 page spread on the use of standardbreds in ACDS carriage driving, particularly for pleasure, endurance and showing.

**Historical:**

\*Talks being held with archiving companies on best ways to keep historical data including documents and photos in a safe secure way, but also accessible to selected people.

\*Alan Ongley can provide an 'on site' service to convert documents, photos and films

\*Vehicles of significance and historic documents continue to be sought for photographing and copying respectively – information re locations and owners of vehicles will not be declared.

**Junior Drivers:**

\*Weekend pleasure driving events for junior drivers and grooms are being planned

\*Suggestions needed from clubs on how to encourage and coach junior drivers. Contact Convenor Robert Allport (0427 916 524)

**Other:**

\*Decision to have three instead of four Branch Meetings per year – Feb, June, Nov

\*Essential that other competitions not be run on State Championships weekends

\*To avoid important clashes, event organizers must check with calendar coordinator before booking venues

\*Event organizers also need to advise calendar coordinator asap if an event has been cancelled or postponed, as this may free up the date for another event to be held

\*Drivers need to carry proof of membership (membership card or receipt) when attending events

\*Grant approved to assist in Bram Chardon airfare

\*Grant approved to P & E to assist in running training activities for juniors

\*Sydney Royal class sponsorship to continue in 2017

**Next Meeting: February 18 2017 at Bathurst**

## ADVERTISEMENTS

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