

# April 2011



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### ADVERTISING RATES

#### Businesses

Full page \$25 Half page \$15

Quarter page \$10

#### Club Members

Small display ads for members selling saddles, horses etc are free of charge.

## Contents

President's Report	1	New Safety Top Hat	8
Calendar, News, Results	2	XXXX Colic Remedy	9
PSI Mini Master Class	4	Boneo Park Competition	10
Hayley Beresford Clinics	5	Classifieds	11
Spotlight on Shoulder-in	6	May Club Day Competition	12

## President's Report

Hi Riders,

Well we have certainly had some unusual weather patterns lately and I for one have no need for anymore water at my place!!

We just ran our open competition at Glenbrae on Sunday and it was very well received by both outside competitors and a huge number of club members rode which was fantastic. Sunday brought a chilly start to the day but ended up with abundances of lovely sunshine.

The week before had been rather wet which worked out well as it watered the two back arenas perfectly. Huge thanks goes out to all the helpers both on the day and before. Our events always run with smooth precision due to the great organisation of our committee members.

A special thanks to Phil (Sharon Gorton's partner) for his non-stop help all day, whether it be in the kitchen or at the final part of the day pulling down the rings. Sharon will let us know soon how much we made from the day to put into our every growing kitty.

Well short but sweet...See you all in May.

*Michelle Oliver*



## Club Calendar 2011

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2011

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2011

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2011

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2011

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Closing date for entries for May Freshman's Competition**

**Freshman's Competition at Glenbrae C tests**

Club Day Competition at Glenbrae D tests & 4A, 5A

Freshman's Competition at Glenbrae A tests & 4B, 5B

YVDC Annual General Meeting

Club Day Competition at Glenbrae B tests & 4C, 5C

Freshman's Competition at Glenbrae C tests & 4A, 5A

YVDC Official Open Competition at Werribee NEC

Club Day Competition at Glenbrae D tests & 4B, 5B

## News

### EV - Microchipping

A reminder from Equestrian Victoria that all competition horses must be microchipped by **30 June 2011**.

## Results from YVDC 17<sup>th</sup> April Open Competition at Glenbrae

### PRELIMINARY 1B JUDGES: DENISE MENZIES, FELICITY ST JOHN

Bellaire Royce	Beverley Seddon	68.600	1st
Ochre Noir	Marnie Barrett	66.600	2nd
Saluta Hit	Sandra Norster	66.400	3rd
Ashleigh Rococo	Pamela Miskin	65.000	4th
Heatherton Park Chocolat	Vanessa Griffiths	64.600	5th
Ilkeston	Tracey Gaspari	64.400	6th=
Don Rodrigo	Janice Kennan	64.400	6th=

### PRELIMINARY 1B PONY

Willowcroft Regal Imposter	Karina Bartlett	64.000	1st
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### NOVICE 2B JUDGE: KERRY BLAKELEY

Gladwin	Nicole Donald	69.697	1st
Ochre Noir	Marnie Barrett	65.455	2nd
Thomson Park Justine	Judy Gronn	63.636	3rd
Larapinta Air Time	Kathy Minchin	62.424	4th=
Grand Cavalla	Elizabeth Wood	62.242	4th=
Saluta Hit	Sandra Norster	61.818	6th=
Ashleigh Rococo	Pamela Miskin	62.818	6th=

### NOVICE 2B PONY

Willowcroft Regal Imposter	Karina Bartlett	55.152	1st
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## Leaderboard

Updated results can be viewed on the Yarra Valley Dressage Club website:  
[www.yvdc.com.au](http://www.yvdc.com.au)



**ELEMENTARY 3B JUDGES: ROB CLAY, HELEN DAVIES**

Gladwin	Nicole Donald	68.676	1st
Sienna Eyre	Janice Herzig	64.265	2nd
Jaybee Cartier	Melissa Davies	63.529	3rd
Grand Cavalla	Elizabeth Wood	63.235	4th
Thomson Park Justine	Judy Gronn	58.088	5th
Justin Thyme	Amanda Goodman	51.912	6th

**MEDIUM 4A JUDGES: ROB CLAY, HELEN DAVIES**

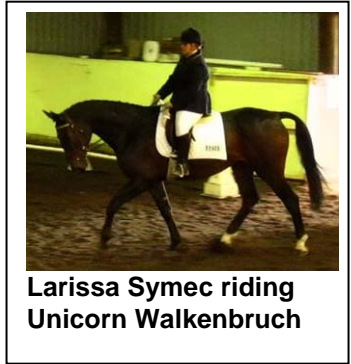
Jaybee Acrobat	Christina McElwain	67.500	1st
Jaybee Cartier	Melissa Davies	67.222	2nd
Kendalee Whelem	Susan Leslie	64.583	3rd
Quinlin	Monica Bird	62.361	4th
Import	Fiona McNaught	61.528	5th
Jaybee Cartier	Melissa Davies	61.389	6th

**ADVANCED 5A JUDGES: SUE CHANDLER, CATRINA CORTEN**

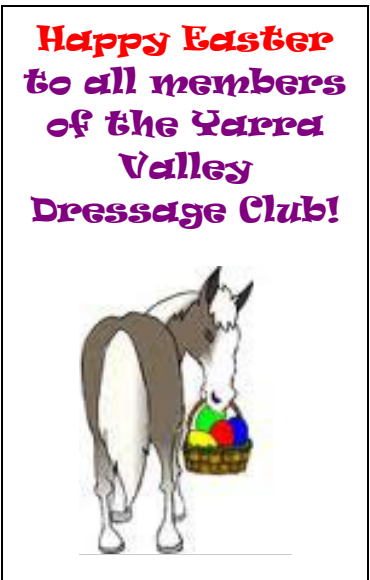
Belcam Cartiere	Vanessa Griffiths	62.250	1st
Kendalee Whelem	Susan Leslie	61.500	2nd
Brookwood Park Feuergress	Adam Benson	60.875	3rd
Jaybee Acrobat	Christina McElwain	60.000	4th
Avoca on the Move	Lauren Bailey-Smith	59.750	5th
Belcam Carob	Judy Gronn	57.875	6th

**PRIX ST GEORGE JUDGES: SUE CHANDLER, CATRINA CORTEN**

Simply The Best	Charmaine Shepherd	61.053	1st
Brookwood Park Feuergress	Adam Benson	59.474	2nd
AEA ET One	Amanda Goodman	59.079	3rd
Avoca on the Move	Lauren Bailey-Smith	58.684	4th
APH Rostock	Kathy Lewis	57.105	5th
Belcam Carob	Judy Gronn	56.579	6th



Larissa Symec riding Unicorn Walkenbruch



Jenny Wall on Home Coming



Rae Ansell on Florianna



Pam Miskin on Ashleigh Rococo

Thanks to Joy Fricke for taking some happy snaps while Gear Checking.

## Member News

### DWTS 2011 PSI Mini Master class with Ulf Mueller

By Monica Bird

My young mare Hayley being by Sandreo (Sandro Hit) was invited to attend the session with Ulf Mueller because of her obvious link to Sandro Hit which Ulf rode for much of his successful career.

She is three and half years old and broken in only 4 months but has had a great temperament since birth, so I thought it is always good to get the young ones out so why not.

As evidenced by the spectators on the day, the young ones don't last long, so I discussed this aspect with Ulf prior and he was so supportive. He said to just do the basics with a lot of breaks. I told him she would only last about 15 minutes and again he said "No problem, short quality work is always best".



As always he emphasized rhythm, suppleness and then contact, basically the German training scale.

Ulf started by asking for forward movement, not running but in rhythm. He emphasized that it was important that the rider may need to use very obvious aids at the starting of a young horse but later on the aids will in time lesson as the horse becomes more predictable of the aid.

In terms of Hayley's head and neck position, he said that they don't need to be deep and round at this stage, just have a comfortable neck position for the horse with some roundness and just start to get a feeling for the contact.

He then introduced some large changes in direction to assess the suppleness. While doing the change of direction you must not lose the three things you are working on which is rhythm, suppleness and contact.

It was a real challenge to bring such a green horse to the *Dressage With the Stars* environment and I'm proud Hayley took everything in her stride!

Cheers, Monica



<http://www.freebrainagegames.com>

This is an excellent free website for exercising your brain – if you are like me - getting on in years, and/or have a family member with dementia or Alzheimer's you will love these exercises!! I officially have a brain age of a 35 years old person (my friends will beg to differ I'm sure!) – wish I had the body to go with it too!... And that score was achieved with me not being able to do one of the exercises because I didn't have a separate mouse attached to my laptop!! So don't just exercise your horses...exercise your brain too!!

## Dressage Clinics with Hayley Beresford

By Judy Gronn

Last December, just after the Dressage Festival, I was really excited to ride in a clinic with Hayley Beresford.

I originally bought Katie as a three year old through Hayley when she had just finished breaking her in and Hayley continued to help me each week until she moved to WA.

As we all know now Hayley went on to Germany working and training with Isabel Werth and was our most highly placed rider at the Hong Kong Olympics. So to have the opportunity to have some lessons and especially on Katie who has gone from Preliminary to PSG in that time was so exciting.

Hayley said our work was very correct but just needed to be more exciting and have more flair!! We worked on improving her paces, getting her supple and more engaged and keeping the training simple. We had to get the basics and then add a movement on top, e.g. get the trot and put the shoulder in or half pass on top of the trot, not just think of the movement and lose the quality of the basic trot. We attacked the dreaded walk pirouettes which I was told I had to sort out before we could work on the canter ones.



I also rode Justine who needed to be rounder and improve her stride with lots of transitions within the pace. Hayley would say, "Bring her right back and then "massage" a bigger stride out of her". In general Hayley wanted all the horse very round, not necessarily low and deep, but round over the back and up through the wither. She talked about the "core" of the horse being strong. The horses head and neck must be straight in front of their body, because if we have too much flexion we block the inside hind leg and the horse can't be straight.

A very busy week just before Christmas - the shopping was done on Christmas Eve!! At least I had a good excuse this year.

So in March this year Hayley was back and the clinic was run at the beautiful Boneo Park. Again the dreaded walk pirouettes - Hayley was horrified how badly I can manage to make them, as are most instructors, and she got on Katie herself to show how easy they are. Hayley could do them, Katie could do them but... by the last day we had made a lot of improvement and I now have a new feeling and know when it feels right...which is sometimes!!!!

We also did a very interesting exercise working towards the canter pirouettes with Hayley emphasising that you can't just keep training canter pirouettes or you will break the horse down. We cantered down the  $\frac{3}{4}$  line, kept the impulsion on the turn and then down the next  $\frac{3}{4}$  line to the next turn. After establishing this we added in some  $\frac{1}{2}$  pass steps after the turn and then straight on until the next turn. After that was established we added the  $\frac{1}{2}$  pass into the turn and there you have your pirouette feeling. It was a great exercise which a lot of us did. Hayley emphasised we had to build blocks, one on top of another, one at a time and keep it simple.

On the last day of this clinic I rode the PSG test and had to repeat every movement until I got it right... then I had to try and make it look smooth and easy! Haha!!

Hayley is very concerned about the welfare of the horses; she is great fun and full of enthusiasm and knowledge, which she is so keen to share. Can't wait until next time!

## Spotlight on Shoulder in

by Keith Robertson



In these photos, I am riding two advanced horses. Wild Storm is an 11-year-old Irish x Hanoverian chestnut gelding working at Prix St George level, and Korenbloem Fleur de Lis is a bay 11-year-old Dutch Warmblood mare working at Advanced/Medium.

### What is shoulder-in?

The British Dressage rulebook, shoulder-in definition is: The horse is slightly bent round the inside leg of the rider. The horse's inside foreleg passes and crosses in front of the outside leg; the inside hind leg is placed in front of the outside leg. The horse is looking away from the direction in which he is moving. Shoulder-in, if performed in the right way, with the horse slightly bent around the inside leg of the rider, and at the correct tracking, is not only a suppling movement but also a collecting movement, because the horse at every step must move his inside hind leg underneath his body and place it in front of the outside, with lowering his inside hip.

It also states:

- a) The additional aim of lateral movements, is to develop and increase the engagement of the quarters and thereby also the collection.
- b) In all lateral movements the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the quarters on two different tracks.
- c) The bend or flexion must never be exaggerated so that it impairs the balance and fluency of the movement concerned.
- d) In the lateral movements the pace should remain free and regular, maintained by a constant impulsion, yet it must be supple, cadenced and balanced. The impulsion is often lost, because of the rider's preoccupation mainly in bending the horse and pushing him sideways.
- e) At all lateral movements the side to which the horse should be bent is described as the inside. The opposite side is the outside.

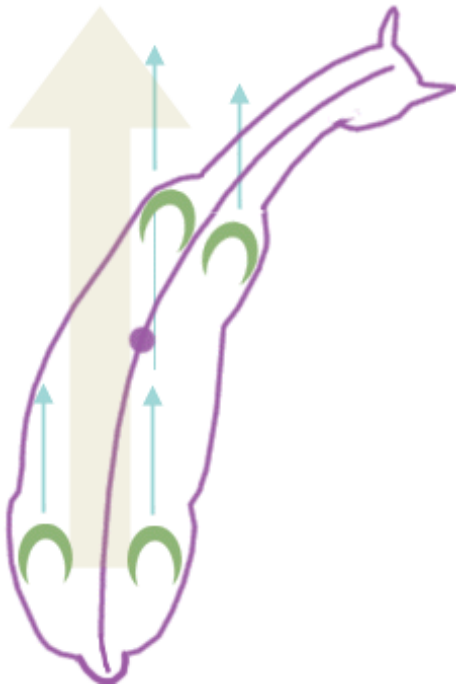
### The Basics

Shoulder-in is a movement that I would introduce to horses' training plans from a relatively early stage, once the horse is balanced in all three gaits, attentive to the aids and has mastered the leg yield under the rider. Most of our horses begin shoulder-in from the age of four or five as a suppling exercise, and later as an exercise to aid engagement and collection.

Usually performed in trot, shoulder-in first appears at Elementary level. In shoulder-in, the horse's footfalls are on three tracks. The shoulder-in is the basis of all lateral work seen in the higher levels and the cornerstone of gymnastic exercises; it is used to supple and balance the horse and encourage him to use his hindquarters.

### Riding shoulder-in down the long side

Before you start, make sure you can balance independently (i.e. you are not using the reins to steady yourself), your horse responds to your leg, that he bends correctly through corners and on circles, and that he is working into both reins with a consistent soft contact.



Once you have established the basics, you can start to include shoulder-in in your work. Establish a forward rhythmical trot and use a corner or small 10m circle in the corner to collect and balance your horse, in preparation for shoulder-in down the long side. This will ensure you come into the shoulder-in with the correct bend.

As you leave the corner, position the shoulders to come slightly off the track as if preparing to continue on your 10m circle again. Keep your inside leg on the girth to maintain inside bend and signal to your horse that he is not to leave the track. Turn your shoulders slightly in the direction you are bending your horse. Your outside rein supports the horse's shoulder and prevents him from moving in off the track. Your inside rein should maintain a light contact; avoid pulling or holding the horse's head to the inside with the rein as you will either over bend the neck in relation to the body, or cause the horse to come in off the track.

It is the riders inside leg that creates and maintains the bend. Your outside leg is a little behind the girth and remains passive to encourage correct bend; it should only become active if you feel the horse's quarters swinging out.

Once you have established the shoulder-in on the long side, your horse should stay in the movement until you tell him otherwise. Straighten the horse before the corner so you can ride a balanced correct corner. In competition, shoulder-in is required on a straight line between two markers and not round corners.

### Common problems

Loss of impulsion - It is common when introducing new movements for horses and riders to approach tentatively or for the rider to be over-controlling in an attempt to produce the movement at all cost. Allow the horse to travel forward confidently to the contact to maintain energy within the movement. If you feel the horse is too forward return to walk and maintain the exercise rather than being too strong with the rein or hand.

Head tilting - Head tilting can easily become an issue within lateral movements, commonly as a response to the rider being stronger with one hand or attempting to deal with a greater degree of stiffness on one side of the horse's body. Firstly look at yourself to check you are can provide equal pressure through both reins and that any rein being used is moved smoothly. With a stiffer horse, return either to the exercise in walk initially or use some leg yield to help improve the horse's suppleness.

Lack of bend in body - This can also be the result of horse stiffness or an overactive rider's inside rein, which will also create excessive neck bend. Return to your start point and begin the exercise again. For a stiff horse it is a matter of following the guidelines above. If the rider is considered to be at fault again check the contact. The inside rein may be too strong creating the excessive bend, however if the outside rein does not provide sufficient control to the outside of the horse's body the same mistake can result.

Too much angle - This fault can be rider or horse oriented. Generally it is caused by a stiffer side on the horse, or an



overzealous rider. This can also occur with inexperienced or young horses trying to please, so take your time when trying to work out the exact cause.

Incorrect bend - Can be the result of a genuine misunderstanding between horse and rider or may stem from a horse's resistance in a movement it is finding difficult to achieve. Return to the exercise in walk and enlist a friend or mirror to help correct you before returning to the trot.

Rider crookedness - Created frequently by riders desperately trying to ride the movement strongly from their body or simply not having developed the control required to maintain an effective basic position during lateral work. Try to relax into the movement checking you are sitting evenly on both seat bones and keeping your shoulders level. Again enlist a friend to tell you what looks right and wrong.

Rider pushing quarters out rather than bringing shoulders in - This is very common and happens when the rider's inside leg comes too far back behind the girth, over focusing on the 'sideways' element of the exercise. You must imagine the inside leg sends the horse forwards along the track, whilst the outside leg is positioned slightly further back to guard the quarters from swinging or being pushed out. This will almost feel like your normal canter aid position initially so don't be surprised if your horse mistakes it as such at some point. Aim to maintain even bend through the horse from nose to tail thus ensuring the suppling part of the exercise is achieved.

*Kindly provided by Horse and Country TV. To find out more about Keith, please visit <http://www.wildfarmequestrian.co.uk/>*

## **New safety top hat launched for dressage riders**



Amy Mathieson, H&H news writer 12 April, 2011

Dressage riders can now look stylish and protect against head injuries when competing at any level with the launch of a new high-tech top hat that meets official safety standards.

The hat looks like a standard top hat, but has a crash hat inside and fastens with a chin-strap. It was launched by Dutch hat manufacturers L'Hiver at a trade show at 's-Hertogenbosch (24-27 March).

"As far as we are aware this is a world premier," Boy de Winter from L'Hiver told H&H, adding the hats have been approved to meet EN1384 safety standards by assessors TNO and Tüv. "We have taken our first orders and they will be available in June."

Mr de Winter reported there has been a lot of interest, from all levels of riders, especially from the USA.

"We've been working on the hats for five years, but sped up due to public demand after Courtney King-Dye's accident," Mr de Winter said.

Since last month hard hats have been mandatory in all US national dressage competitions and all under-18s must wear an approved helmet at FEI competitions in the US. Adults do not have to wear safety helmets in international classes, although they are "strongly recommended" to do so by the FEI.

# XXXX beer brings horse back from the dead after bout of colic

by Jeremy Pierce

*The Courier-Mail* March 31, 2011

**STRICTLY MEDICINAL:** Steve Clibborn and his endurance horse Diamond Mojo, which recovered from colic after being given a dose of XXXX beer.

Picture: Adam Head Source: The Courier-Mail



## IT sounds like a load of XXXX but beer saved this horse's life.

Diamond Mojo, a six-year-old Australian waler, had been given up for dead by his owner Steve Clibborn after being struck down with a bout of potentially deadly colic.

So, as desperate men do in desperate times, Steve turned to the bottle not for himself, but for his horse.

"I had pretty much kissed him goodbye," he said.

"I had spent 23 hours straight with him but nothing worked and then I remembered an old bush tale that said you could feed them beer.

"I don't know whether I really believed it or not but it was worth a shot and as soon as he had that beer, he burped and perked right up. So I gave him another couple."

Over the following days, Steve repeated the dose using Queensland's own XXXX lager until his prized endurance horse rediscovered his mojo.

Colic is a medical problem common in humans and horses resulting in acute abdominal pain, which can be caused by factors such as stress.

Diamond Mojo had an unrelated leg injury that could have triggered the ailment.

Colic is often fatal to horses and opinion is divided on how it can best be treated. But Steve thinks he is on to a winner with the nectar of the gods.

"It bloody well worked," he said. "I am not sure of the science behind it, but because it's gassy it can give them some relief in their stomachs.

"He ended up taking quite a shine to XXXX so I had to get him off the grog or he was going to cost me a fortune."



FINE drop: Diamond Mojo takes a sip of XXXX.

Picture: Adam Head Source: The Courier-Mail

## Boneo Park Open Dressage Competition

A reminder that entries for the official Boneo Park 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> June competition don't close until 1st June.

The competition schedule is as follows:

**Saturday:** Novice 2B & 2C, Medium 4B & 4C, PSG & Inter 1

**Sunday:** Preliminary 1B & 1C, Elementary 3B & 3C, Advanced 5B & 5C, Inter 2 & Grand Prix

Further information can be found at: [www.boneopark.com.au](http://www.boneopark.com.au)

**Contact:** Julia Stewart, Events Manager  
Boneo Park Equestrian Centre Pty Ltd  
Mobile: 0406 072 589  
312 Boneo Road, Boneo 3939  
events@boneopark.com.au

## Rob Bennett & Sons

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*Happy Easter*

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### Animal Welfare – Dogs left in cars on warm days...



It is of concern that a long haired dog (a type of collie) was left in the back of a locked car, with only a side window slightly down and no water and the sun streaming in through the back window, at our Sunday competition at Glenbrae. The dog was obviously distressed, panting and barking, until a car door was opened to let more fresh air flow through to lower the cabin temperature. Just like a young child left in a car, dogs too are susceptible to heat stress and can quickly die in these situations. Please do not bring your pets to Glenbrae – they are not allowed by Management, and it is very dangerous to lock them in your car in warm weather. Thank you.

## Classifieds

### Young Horse for Sale

Istvan Othello - "Otto"



Otto is a 4 year old bay gelding by Capone, who should mature to 16.2hh. He is a truly lovely young horse, with 3 excellent paces and a fantastic attitude to his work. He is forward and confident, yet laid-back. He has been in work with Michelle Oliver since breaking in and has not put a foot wrong. Those who were at the last Club Day at Glenbrae would have seen Michelle riding him at lunchtime in the indoor - he didn't bat an eyelid and stood happily in a yard all day



– just 6 weeks after breaking in.

Sadly offered for sale by his owner/breeder who is about to have a career change and will not have time to do him justice. He is a super unspoilt horse, with a correct basic education and a great future looking for someone to take him there.

Photos taken 5 & 6 weeks after breaking in.

**Contact: Kim Anning 0412 141171 or Michelle Oliver 0418 171872**



### Horse dilemma

I have a little dilemma that I thought somebody might be able to help me with...

Riley is a 17.1hh 9yo grey gelding with a BIG personality to match. Riley suffers from some joint issues in his back fetlocks which are stopping me from competing and training him solidly. He would suit being worked 3-4 days a week moderately, but is a **big** horse and therefore needs a confident rider to match.

I am looking for a competent rider be it a young rider or adult who is looking for another horse to ride.

If you know of anybody that would be suitable I would love to talk to them.

**Contact: Michelle Oliver on 0418 171 872**



### Luc Childeric Dressage Saddle

Immaculate black French saddle. 17 inch current DSG model, size 10 gullet. Without mounts. Excellent condition.

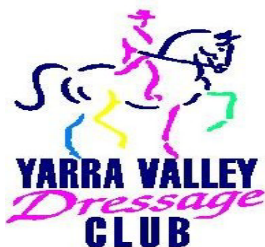
**Price: \$5,500 firm**

**Contact: Kerry Frampton Phone: 5967 4225**



# Freshman's Day Competition – Sunday 15th May 2011

Tests are ridden twice under EFA rules. Riders discuss their first test with the judge before riding it again immediately. Ribbons are awarded to 6<sup>th</sup> place.



## Entry Form

RIDER \_\_\_\_\_

HORSE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> TEST ENTERED \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> TEST \_\_\_\_\_

ENTRY FEE  
ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

### I will assist with:

RING SET UP  RING PULL DOWN   
PENCIL  SCORE  SHEET COLLECTION   
OTHER

Neither the Yarra Valley Dressage Club Incorporated, it's agents nor the owners of any property used by the YVDC Inc. accept any liability for any accident, damage, injury loss or illness to horse, riders, spectators or grounds or any person or property whatsoever.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011  
GLENBRAE EQUESTRIAN  
CENTRE, VICTORIA ROAD  
WANDIN

Tests - 1C, 2C, 3C, 4C, 5C, Prix St  
George, Inter1, Inter 11, Grand Prix

Entries Close - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011

Fees - Club Members - \$20 per test

Event Secretary - Jan Herzig  
P.O Box 297 Wandin North Vic 3139

Scratchings on the day 0412 170 566

- ◆ **All competitors are required to assist before, during or after competition. Please indicate your preferred job.**
- ◆ Points awarded to club trophies
- ◆ Ribbons to 6<sup>th</sup> place
- ◆ Each test is ridden twice
- ◆ EFA Rules apply
- ◆ 2nd test may be entered if sufficient time
- ◆ Clean and neat attire
- ◆ Open to current YVDC members only
- ◆ **NO DOGS ALLOWED**
- ◆ *Yummy free lunch!*