



Newsletter January 2010



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EFA DELEGATE

Rae Ansell 9728 2517

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Joy Fricke **0403 608 137**

CLINIC CO ORDINATOR

Rae Ansell 9728 2517

CATERING

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GENERAL COMMITTEE

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Pam Miskin 0419 671 879

Barbara Geoffrey 5964 3961

Sam Ruedegger 0408 709 550

Jenny Wall 0400 225 423

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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.

www.yvdc.com.au

President's Report

Hi Riders,

Well another year has been and gone and we are all getting older!! My body keeps on reminding me that I am not as young and bouncy as I used to be and my horse Charlie tested this other week when he decided to bolt and land me on a star picket, and I certainly did not bounce!! On the bright side I did come off well considering the impact, just a lovely colorful bruise.

I did forget to mention last month about our Christmas function at Sunderland Estate. It was really well received by all that attended and everybody seemed pleased with the food and company. Big thanks to Jenny Wall for organizing the night and suggesting the venue.

We had our Young horse and open event down at Werribee on the 10th of January. The weather had been really hot the week previous so we decided if the day was going to be over 35 degrees we would cancel the day. We thought this best not only for the welfare of horses/riders but also for the judges having to sit in their cars for hours on end. Thankfully the day was around 32 degrees at its hottest with a nice breeze which kept everybody happy. We however did have a large number of scratchings so it will be interesting to see how much money we made at the end of the day. The day ran like clock work as it always does due to all the wonderful helpers. Huge thank you to all those who did give up their day including my husband Craig, Mum and Dad! It is a family affair for me, which is great for both me and the club.

Our club day is coming up on the 14th of February at Glenbrae our first for the year, so I look forward to catching up with you all then.



Happy Riding, Michelle

Club Calendar 2009

Sunday 14/2/10 – Club Day (**entries close 5th Feb**)

D&JWTS – 18th – 20th March

Sunday 21/3/10 – Club Freshmans Day

Sunday 18/4/10 – Open Comp @ Glenbrae

Sunday 16/5/10 - Club Day

And down the track!!! 27/6 – 25/7 – 15/8 – 19/9 – 14/11

Thanks! Merci!



Thanks to Kim Anning, Sarah Beasley, Joy Fricke, Gubby, Kerri Frampton, These members all made the trip they weren't competing.

Anne Dunlop, Meg Stafford, Marie and Susan Vickering, Anita Sampieri, Annette Maryanne Delf, and Liz Wright Smith. to Werribee to support the Club even though

Kylie Pedder, Leanne Atwell, Ruth Feltoe, Judy Gronn, Debbie Van Iersel, Bruce Gillard Sharon Streeter, Jill Sinclair and Angela Doake who fitted in helping around their riding.

Special thanks to Rob and Joy Aitken and Craig Oliver for their help with the scoring.

As the old saying goes many hands make light work.



One pair of glasses **Left at the competition.**

Finding it hard to read and missing your glasses then give Sharon a call on 5964 6917.

Thanks, Sharon

Could I please ask anyone that has a camera & goes to the club days or comps to take some happy snaps, so they can be included in the letter. That would be brilliant! Thanks in advance!!! Joy.

Farewell Flowervale Ferro Two



Photo taken by Peter Orr, from Photo Finnish @ the 2009 National Dressage Championships

Flowervale Ferro Two sadly passed away on 12 /1/10

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many people who were part of Ferro's life. To my husband who continues to encourage and give me endless support. To the breeder, Case who has been there through thick and thin.

Huge thanks to our vets, Ian and Paul, for their determination, and tireless efforts with Ferro's colic from an early age. To the people who have helped me through the training, thank you for your guidance and patience. To everyone who sent text messages, emails, letters, cards, flowers and gifts. It has been overwhelming, totally unexpected but greatly appreciated.

Ferro..... Our journey continues, as you will be in my heart forever.

Monica Bird



Editors Rambles

Vale Ferro

I know I can say on behalf of the club, that we were all shocked & saddened to hear of the fate of Ferro.

What a beautiful horse he was. The son of Dutch superstar – Olympic Ferro.

I helped Monica for nearly 2 years & in that time I got to know him & his funny little ways. We would laugh at him & he would get called lots of other names at times, but it was all tongue in cheek stuff. His talent was amazing, which of course had not gone unnoticed with Monica & Ferro being on the State Squad. What a wonderful achievement.

The dedication, routine, care, devotion & love that Monica gave Ferro, is to be commended. He could not have been in a better home, or, had a better life. I hope Monica, that the knowledge that all the club members & the entire horse community are thinking of you, gives you support to get thru this rough time.

We all know how our horses become our 'mates' & our hearts go out to Monica as she has just lost her best mate... the "Top Dog"



I have included on the next page the lovely tribute that Bernie Saunders had on Cyberhorse.

Another Sad Loss For Dressage

Written by Berni Saunders
Wednesday, 27 January 2010 13:40



Vale - Flowervale Ferro 12 January, 2010

It is with great sadness that the Australian Dressage community learns that we have lost one of our brightest young equine stars - Flowervale Ferro. His owner and rider Monica Bird has trained the horse right from the beginning and has had enjoyed many notable achievements along the way. The pair were on the Victorian Dressage Squad set to take on the best as the natural talent of this outstanding Grand Prix prospect developed.

The beautifully conformed black gelding is the son of the acclaimed Dutch stallion Olympic Ferro who made lots of Australian friends when he appeared with Coby van Baalen at the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games and showed us what lightness and expression are all about.

Flowervale Ferro was conceived in Australia at the Flowervale Stud which was then in the Yarra Valley and Monica bought him as an unknown quantity, but trusted the basis of his outstanding pedigree, his good conformation and uphill inclination and the exceptional youthful movement that these attributes gave.

Losing her best horse is a bitter blow as Monica had only just completed a clinic with Princess Nathalie from Denmark and she said "I always had a good time with Ferro and loved every minute of our journey together. He was not right and as he had been troubled by bouts of colic all of his life - I knew the awful tell tale sign of the onset of a colic attack. Unfortunately we were unable to beat this one and so my treasured partner was lost."

**Snaps from
the recent
comp at WP.**



Colin Gronn carefully approaching Pam Miskin, is there a hold up happening here, or, is she saying words to Allah!??



Judy Gronn on Justine

Here are some photos of Greta's Royal Hit colt born December 23. She is the best mother ever! So far he doesn't appear to have her spots.

Cheers Kim Anning



Look at my beautiful head!!!



More of Maryanne Delf's cartoons!



Ashleigh Drossel Dan

By Colin & Judy

After the Olympic Games and a long quarantine, Dan eventually arrived home to Treehaven with Laurie. They went on to win the World Cup at Equitana and then at Sale and had some more successes in Sydney.

Dan then had a well-earned rest and in August boarded a plane for Germany to where Philip Lever, Laurie's son is based as it was decided it was time for Philip to take the ride on Dan. Philip has been training in Germany for some years now and is a very competent competition rider. Philip and Dan spent some time getting to know each other and attending a few local shows. Early November arrived when Dan and Philip started on their international campaign. The scene can be compared to a 20/20 cricket match held indoors with huge crowds, lots of lights, music and loud cheering and clapping. The entries are large and its tough just qualifying for the Grand Prix where the first prize money can be between 25,000 and 35,000 Euro or a Mercedes car. It's magic and exciting but its tough to survive at this level.

So Far ...

- Oldenburg where they qualified for the Grand Prix and jumped very well.
- Dresden, a big international show where they were 5th in the Grand Prix. WOW!
- Verden in early January, 4th in the Grand Prix
- Leipzig, a Big World Cup Show where they finished 8th in the World Cup/Grand Prix, with placings in the qualifiers and clear rounds for the whole show.

We are all very excited and looking forward to what comes next???



Laurie Lever on Dan at the 2008 Olympics



Colin, saying his farewells to Dan before he departs on his new life

How exciting for the Gronn's!!!

A top website to watch the dressage and jumping in Germany is www.clipmyhorse.de

(A tip from Pam Miskin!)

For Sale



Sylvester is a 6 y.o. Dark Bay Thoroughbred. 16.2 – 16.3hh. Three exceptional paces, scopey jump. He is an intelligent, gentle horse that loves to please and is quick to learn. He has the most beautiful, quiet temperament and doing anything with him is a breeze.

Still a bit green, however, he has unlimited potential for a serious experienced rider to advance through the grades with ease.

No vices whatsoever and completely sound.

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Coldstream - Yarra Valley pickup. Minimum of 6 bales.

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A Tug of the Tail and the Heart Strings – A Riders Tale

Sometimes life reminds you that you have just become a little complacent. I recently had one such experience. A simple act of holding a foal with my enclosed arms became a foolish attempt to stop the foal escaping, by pulling its tail. After over 40 years of horse handling, I still wonder how I managed to perform, such a dangerous stupid act. The truth is, you make a split second decision, & even though I registered in a mini second how dangerous this movement was, it was too late & I certainly learnt the error of my ways.

Consequently, 2 days in Knox Hospital, sharing with 3 others, nauseated & vomiting due to the side effects of morphine, intra-venous drip & unable to speak or eat!

On day 3 I was still hoping to ride in the State Championships. When finally I got the chance to speak with my a highly recommended plastic surgeon, & he suggested that he could operate under a local anesthetic, rather than a general, to expedite my recovery. At this stage I had plans: I would ask Geoff, (my husband), to walk the horses in hand for 10 minutes, then I would 'simply' ride the test, without a warm up! Such optimism – I so badly wanted to ride both Gabby and Sander. It is not everyday that you qualify for the PSG, Inter 1 & Novice. Sander had just begun his competition career, and he feels sensational when he finds his 5th gear, or, as I call it, 'cruise control!' However I underestimated the pain factor accompanied by migraines, and along with the whole discomfort of 40 sutures, holding my chin & lip onto my jaw.

I had offered Gabby to a young rider, to enter the Aachen Challenge. (Riders under 26 years compete at PSG level, & the winner's prize is a free trip to Aachen, Germany.) I offered Jade Woodhead the chance to ride Gabby in the Inter 1 as well. She only had 3 rides prior to the comp, so we know that it was a big ask for both horse &

rider. Becoming a partnership & understanding each other clearly takes time to develop. There needed to be some fine tuning done with the tempi changes, but Jane to her credit was a pleasure to teach, & cooped amazingly well with my ventriloquist speech. My lovely Mum took notes as I sat in the car, (as I was cautioned not to get dust into my wounds!), & we tried to help Jade ride Gabby.

Michelle Oliver accepted the ride on Sandor, initially finding communication a little challenging, but after a few sessions things were getting sorted out . On the comp day, one of the judges gave him many 8's in his test, & Michelle scored an 8 for her riding. I was like a mother hen, so proud of them both. My friends & family had to restrain me from jumping over the white railing fence to hug Michelle & Sandor – I was so ecstatic!

Prior to the Inter 1 – I am sure some spectators must have thought that this woman with the huge sun hat on, wearing what looked like a mask to protect against swine flu, & mumbling instructions like a ventriloquist, all while dancing all the steps of the zig zag half pass, & counting every stride & ½ halt, Well this is clearly someone suffering from obsessive compulsive disorder!!! Little did they know that this was mother hen trying to help a rider, who had never ridden these movements before & to do them on a strange horse!

Jade had had a break from competition riding so this was her first one following an 18 month break. I really wanted her to have a good ride & I wanted Gabby to understand her aids. I bought Gabby as a 3 year old so I know her very well. All of my instructions were taken really well by Jane & her aids improved dramatically during the few rides she had on gabby. I had tears running down my face, when she pulled off the canter pirouettes AND 7 mistake free 2 time changes!!!! She even managed the zig zag half passes!

The casual observer would have no idea, of the effort & the generosity of both horse to rider, & rider to horse.

This is what it is all about. What a wonderful sport, if you avoid holding horses tails!!!

Happy Riding, *Jill*



Claire Ballantyne Clinic

*Qualified International Trainer
BHSI & German FN*

Dates 7th, 8th & 9th March and 13th, 14th 15th & 16th March 2010

Venue Jesmondene
4 Patterson Rd (Float Entrance)
Officer (Melway 14 G12)

Cost \$150 per lesson approx 40 mins

Send to Judy Gronn
P.O. Box 146, Olinda 3788
Ph 9751 2140 mob 0409 351 149
Email: cgja.gronn@pacific.net.au

Please make cheque payable to J Gronn or
Direct Debit to ANZ Monbulk BSB 013-736 Acc No 5458-01713

Disclaimer Neither the organizers nor the venue will be held responsible for any accident, damage, injury or loss to riders, attendants, spectators of any property whatsoever.

APPLICATION FORM

Please tick boxes to indicate which days you wish to ride
All lessons will be in the afternoon 12.00 – 6pm

March 2010

Sun 7th Mon 8th Tues 9th
 Sat 13th Sun14th Mon 15th Tues 16th

Name:-----

Address:-----

Phone: ----- Email -----

Amount enclosed -----

Please indicate approx time's preferences 12.00pm-----6pm

In the event that you cannot ride for any reason a replacement will need to be found before any money can be refunded.

Tony Uytendaal

Passion – Knowledge - Experience

Specialist Dressage Instructor, Level 3

in the Yarra Valley

at the indoor complex, Maurice Rd, Wandin.

Regular fortnightly private lessons, preliminary level and above.

Limited vacancies!!!

Wednesday afternoons 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5pm

Regular Saturday lessons under consideration. Are you interested?

Tony Uytendaal was born in Holland 1945 into a well established and successful horse family. He went into the family equestrian business and during that time achieved honors from the Dutch Federation in all his equestrian qualifications.

He later became head of the department responsible for the education of professional coaches. Tony then had 3 years in a German dressage stable with Olympic coach Bubi Gunter and it was here that he achieved his German Qualifications. He was then invited to train horses in England with Robert Hall, an Olympic Dressage Coach and also achieved his British Horse Society certificates.

Tony arrived in Australia in 1972 and became a Level 3 General and Dressage Specialist Coach. With his wife Leanne, they ran a successful equestrian business for 25 years. Tony's true passion will always be to develop classic, correct dressage training for horse and rider.

ALL LESSONS...

45 minute duration

\$120.00 per lesson (includes indoor school hire fee of \$20.00 per lesson)

Coffee, tea and chocolate biscuits provided!

Wherever you want to be in your competitive riding, Tony can help! TO BOOK OR ENQUIRE, PLEASE



CALL CRAIG on: **0400 267 358**



Club Day Competition - Sunday 14th February

Tests are ridden once under EFA rules. Ribbons are awarded to 6th place.



Entry Form

RIDER _____

HORSE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

1st TEST ENTERED _____ 2nd 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 not 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 14th February 2010 GLENBRAE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, VICTORIA ROAD WANDIN

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

Entries Close – **Friday 5th** February 2010

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.**
- ◆ Points awarded to club trophies
- ◆ Ribbons to 6th place
- ◆ Competitors to report to gear check 20 minutes prior to riding
- ◆ 2nd test may be entered if sufficient time
- ◆ Open to current YVDC members only
- ◆ NO DOGS ALLOWED
- ◆ **Yummy free lunch!**

