

September 2011



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 Sally-Ann Kyatt 5964 2214
 Jenny Wall 0400 225 423

ADVERTISING RATES

Businesses

Full page \$25

Half page \$15

Quarter page \$10

Club Members

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

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President's Report

Hi Riders,

I hope all the riders that attended the Freshman's Day on last weekend got some positive feedback from our judges. Thanks to all the helpers on the day. I was competing down at Boneo Park and WOW what a wonderful facility that will be when it is all finished.

Coming up next is our busy Open Competition at Werribee on 16th October so it will be **all hands on deck again**. Please offer to help in some small way if you can.

We are employing Jenny Hewitt from *The Australian Continental Equestrian Group* to provide computerized **Live Scoring** at the Open Competition at Werribee NEC, which will take the pressure off the Committee members and their families. However we will still need help from members to be sheet collectors, pencilers, gear checkers, ring stewards etc.

So please contact Chris Sudul to volunteer some time on the day. Phone: 0419 380 622

Well short and sweet. See you all at Werribee next month.
 Happy Riding.

Michelle Oliver



Club Calendar 2011

Sunday 16th October

Wednesday 26th October

Sunday 20th November

Thurs 8th – Sun 11th December

December ?

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

YVDC Official Open Competition at Werribee NEC

Entries close for Dressage Festival (State Championships)

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

Dressage Festival at Werribee NEC (State Championships)

Christmas Break Up Party

Club Day Dates for 2012 at Glenbrae Equestrian Centre

Sunday February 12th

Sunday March 11th

Sunday April 15th

Sunday May 13th

Sunday June 10th

Sunday July 8th

Sunday August 12th

Sunday September 9th

Sunday October 16th

Sunday November 11th

Freshman's Competition

Club Day Competition

Freshman's Competition

Club Day Competition

Freshman's Competition

Club Day Competition

Freshman's Competition

Club Day Competition

Open Competition

Freshman's Competition

NOTE DATE CHANGES

Photos: Janice Herzig



Hard working volunteers at the recent Club Day, Karen Webb and Colin Gronn.



Sally-Ann Kyatt on Mi Tesoro Isabella



Barbara Geoffrey riding Coldstream Shahlemar

Results from 18th September Freshman's Day at Glenbrae

PRELIMINARY 1C OUTDOOR RING JUDGE: MONICA BIRD

Janice Herzig	Kendalee Jarrahman	153	69.54%	1st
Carol Ross	Bam	151	68.63%	2nd
Rae Ansell	Jamaican Jazz	144	65.46%	3rd
Karalyn McDonald	Wickedness	142	64.55%	4th=
Peter Dunlop	Silverdene Prince Consort	142	64.55%	4th=
Sally-Ann Kyatt	Mi Tesoro Isabella	140	63.63%	6th

NOVICE 2C INDOOR RING JUDGE: CAROL ROSS

Kerryn Dunlop	Axel III	206	64.37%	1st
Anne Dunlop	Quiggley	196	61.25%	2nd
Clare Liew	Bela Bartok	195	60.93%	3rd
Larissa Symec	Roxbury Catkin	194	60.62%	4th
Sally-Ann Kyatt	Mi Tesoro Isabella	193	60.31%	5th
Birgitte Horn	Bob	191	59.69%	6th

ELEMENTARY 3C OUTDOOR RING JUDGE: MONICA BIRD

Meg Stafford	Belcam Corrado	257	64.30%	1st
Joy Fricke	Rakino Z	242	60.50%	2nd=
Kerrie Aumann	Kerran Park Elle	242	60.50%	2nd=
Joanne Brett	Willow Blossom	228	57.00%	4th
Birgitte Horn	Bob	224	56.00%	5th

MEDIUM 4A INDOOR RING JUDGE: CAROL ROSS

Judy Thompson	The Poet	228	63.30%	1st
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ADVANCED 5A INDOOR RING JUDGE: CAROL ROSS

Michelle Frey	Guilina	247	61.8	1st
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PRIX ST GEORGE INDOOR RING JUDGE: CAROL ROSS

Karalyn McDonald	Ruby Red	231	60.80%	1st
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2011 - 2012 YVDC Leaderboard

Check the website for an update:

www.yvdc.com.au



How many times do we all hear “keep your horse on the bit,” and “your horse needs to stay round – no coming above or below the bit?” It sometimes seems that **since the “bit” is the problem, the reins must be the solution. This is a common mistake** that, left uncorrected, will create significant problems when moving up the levels.

Horses do not move well when pulling or leaning on the reins, or avoiding contact. They will not swing enough, and find it difficult to relax their back. Changes in gait – to medium or extended trot and canter – will be difficult to get consistently and with good quality. Movements will be downhill instead of uphill, often running instead of reaching. And a horse that leans on the reins often has difficulties with flying changes and will never be able to achieve a nice piaffe or passage.

Too much focus on the reins and bit are often a symptom of the horse being ridden from the front to the back, when it should be the other way around. Changing your riding from “front-to-back” to “back-to-front” solves a myriad of problems, and will make your riding more enjoyable and rewarding.

The best place to start fixing contact issues is with activating the haunches – the engine of the horse. **Most often, challenges with contact are caused by weak or non-existent driving aids.** By focusing on the back end of the horse and driving into the contact, many of these problems are solved.

To start, make sure you are closing your legs and using your calf or spurs to drive your horse forward. Try to keep contact with the reins, but never pull back. On a 20 meter circle, bend your horse to the inside while driving the horse forward, using both the inside rein and inside leg. Always make sure you have steady contact with the outside rein. If you drive your horse forward with determination, but at the same time hold the outside rein, your horse has no choice but to become round. **By bending and releasing on a circle, you are working to supple the horse, helping him loosen in both the poll and shoulders.**

As you are flexing to the inside and driving, think of the inside rein like rubber, not a strong cable. Try to release a bit, first by relaxing your fingers. **The key is to not get “stuck” with your hands.** If you feel a bit of tension in the rein, but not pulling by the horse, your horse should now be relaxed and responsive to the rein. If not, you must be very quick to flex again and at the same time drive forward. Keep cycling between driving and giving until you feel the soft give-and-take of your horse’s mouth. And always remember – never pull back.

Below are a few common mistakes that riders make, and suggestions on how to correct these problems:

Common Mistake: Flexing with the inside rein without using solid driving aids.

Correction: The more rein contact you take, the more you need to drive. By correctly using your seat and legs while flexing the inside rein; the horse is able to keep its rhythm. Without the driving aids, pulling too much on the inside rein simply pulls the horse off balance, and does not encourage him to step through from behind. The correction you should make is to ensure you are maintaining or increasing your driving aids while asking for the flexion.

Common Mistake: Pulling on the reins to try to get the horse’s head down.

Correction: If you pull on the reins without the energy coming from the driving aids, the energy is moving from front to back, and does not allow the horse to move forward freely. To correct this, go on a 20 meter circle. Begin by bending the horse to the inside, using your inside leg and inside rein, and maintain strong driving aids. Watch that the horse’s outside shoulder is straight by holding your outside rein steady. Maintain constant contact on your outside rein, and give with the inside rein. As the horse straightens, he will drop his head. Repeat this cycle as you go around the circle until his head is down, on the bit, and his back is up. Remember to really release the inside rein, giving the horse an opportunity to stretch down.

Common Mistake: Giving up too early and not having the horse truly soft and moving from the haunches through the back into the bridle.

Correction: It's easy to get half way there, and think it's enough. Continually test with the inside rein that the horse is responsive and bending. Continually test that you have the proper amount of driving aids, asking for changes within the gait (lengthen / collect). When your horse is truly soft and moving correctly, the rein should be light and the horse responsive to subtle driving aids.

Remember, for a horse that is not used to being round, moving from his hind end through his back will cause him to use completely different muscles than he is used to. Like us, he will most likely be a bit sore the next day and will need time to build up the correct muscles. Be patient, but help him with the workout.

Also, it is always a good idea to have **someone with experience supporting you to help you achieve the right level of engagement and drive.** Talk with your trainer to incorporate these ideas into your lesson program.

Cartoon Caption Competition

Can you come up with a funny caption for the cartoon of the vet treating the horse's swollen leg?

Send your entry via email to:
pjwmiskin@bigpond.com



More Club Day Photos

YVDC is delighted to welcome Carol, David and young William Ross back to the Yarra Valley! Carol helped out straight away by judging at the September Freshman's Day and even found time to ride her horse Bam!

Photos: Janice Herzig





Judy Thompson with her pony Ruby



Karalyn McDonald and Wickedness aka Bella



Peter Dunlop on Silverdene Prince Consort getting tips from judge Monica Bird



Anne Dunlop on Quiggley



Larissa Symec on Roxbury Catkin



Rae Ansell on Jazzabelle



SADDLEWORLD DRESSAGE 2011 FESTIVAL

Presents

VICTORIAN STATE DRESSAGE CHAMPIONSHIPS PACIFIC LEAGUE WORLD CUP FINAL MARCUS OLDHAM AACHEN CHALLENGE

Conducted by Equestrian Victoria

Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre - 170 K Road, Werribee, Victoria

Thursday 8th - Sunday 11th December 2011

Entries Close Wednesday 26th October 2011

Postal Address: Dressage Festival - EV, PO Box 616, Werribee, Victoria 3030

Enquiries:

Bryony Giusti—Event Director: 0425 499 477

Caroline Coleby—Event Director: 0432 505 774

Michelle Coates—Event Secretary: 03 9013 0707 or michelle@equestrianvictoria.com.au

www.vic.equestrian.org.au

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SADDLEWORLD DRESSAGE FESTIVAL 2011 PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE

THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER

Horse Arrival Examination for all GP Horses (AM) • Horse Inspection Grand Prix (PM) • Draw for Pacific League World Cup Final
CPEDI3* Horse Inspection

THURSDAY 8th DECEMBER	FRIDAY 9th DECEMBER	SATURDAY 10th DECEMBER	SUNDAY 11th DECEMBER
Intermediate I	Prix St. Georges	Elementary Championship	Pony Preliminary Championship
Intermediate II	Novice Championship	Pony Elementary Championship	Medium Championship
Advanced Championship	Pony Novice Championship	Advanced Freestyle	Pony Medium Championship
Preliminary Championship	Young Horse Class - 4YO	Aachen Challenge	Grand Prix Special
Young Horse Class - 5YO	PLWCF GP CDI-W	PLWCF GP Freestyle	Aachen Challenge Final
Young Horse Class - 6YO	Grand Prix CDN	Intermediate I Freestyle	CPEDI 3* Freestyle
CPEDI3* Horse Inspection	CPEDI3* Team Test	Grand Prix CDN Freestyle	
		CPEDI 3* Individual Test	

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SADDLEWORLD DRESSAGE FESTIVAL

This year's Saddleworld Dressage Festival is being held December 8 - 11 at the Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre and promises to be another great event, incorporating the Victorian Dressage Championships, the Pacific League World Cup Final, Marcus Oldham Aachen Challenge and an International Para Equestrian competition. As a qualifying event for the 2012 London Olympics, the Festival is expected to attract Australia's leading Grand Prix horses and riders.

For dressage enthusiasts with some spare time – whether it be a few hours or a few days – there are a number of volunteer positions to be filled at the Festival. This is a great opportunity to be involved with the Festival and help contribute to it's success. The range of positions includes the usual pencilling, marshalling, sheet collecting etc as well as pre-event preparation in the week leading up to the Festival. Experience not necessary but enthusiasm is !

Volunteers perform a vital role during the Festival and in appreciation, they receive an event T-shirt and light refreshments. All volunteers working a full day will receive a "Thursday Bronze Pass" for next year's PSI Dressage and Jumping with the Stars (March 22 - 24) and will also go into the draw for a chance to win two Gold Passes.

**If you are interested please contact, as soon as possible, Greg Pratt on 0408 664 614
or by email: gregpratt@buyerschoice.com.au**

**Event enquiries to: Caroline Coleby 0432 505 774 or Bryony Giusti 0425 499 477
or email: dwts@live.com.au**

Event information available from: www.equestrianvictoriaevents.com.au/DF



April Kerford and her elegant mare Rosie at a recent dressage competition.



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Garrido's Mane

Mylessa Nickelson talks about Garrido's mane and how to grow and care for a mane like his!



“Is that real?” they ask pointing to his mane. Yes it is really his hair, all attached at the roots! No there are no extensions, and yes, it is a lot of work.

Here are some tips to grow and care for so much hair. And while I think he has a long hair gene, I know that care helps, because when he came into my life 8 years ago, his mane was only to the point of his shoulder. My effort and time has grown the hair to the ground.

1. It begins in the feed room. “I once had a vet tell me that “the hair coat is the garbage can” of the horse. No nutrition goes into the hair until every other organ and system has been fed what it needs. Then, and only then, does the hair get the nutrition it needs to grow long and luxurious. This is why a well fed horse has a great hair coat as their bodily needs have been met and so the hair can grow. Garrido gets a balanced diet of hay (southern California has very little grass pasture), alfalfa in the morning and oat/barley mix in the evening, a grain ration that has a vitamin pack in it and Red Cell.

2. Garrido lives in a box stall that has no edges in it and the windows have bars/grills which are always closed. It is important that there are no edges so that he cannot rub a hole into his mane. As a stallion who live in a public boarding stable this is necessary to keep him from hanging his head out. He does go out everyday to work and is turned out in a private paddock, where he can see other horses. I do let him get filthy because he enjoys it. There is a tree in his paddock but I stay with him so that he cannot rub his mane out! (This is a great time to return client phone calls!)

3. The mane is washed every time he is presented to the public. If he has no shows then I wash it every 7-10 days. I wish I had a list of the products I use, but the truth is that I keep trying different things because everything seems to work for a while and then it doesn't. I use dandruff shampoo on only the roots and then human shampoo on the rest. I will use whitening shampoo if he is going out to a show, but after the human shampoo. I have used horse and human conditioners and I am always trying to get the mane as clean as I can because he hates the bath. Anything that rinses out cleanly and quickly gets my attention. I always use a leave-in detangler for the comb-out on his damp hair. Because there is so much hair it will dry on the comb-out so I use a bottle of spray water to use to keep the hair damp while I work on it.

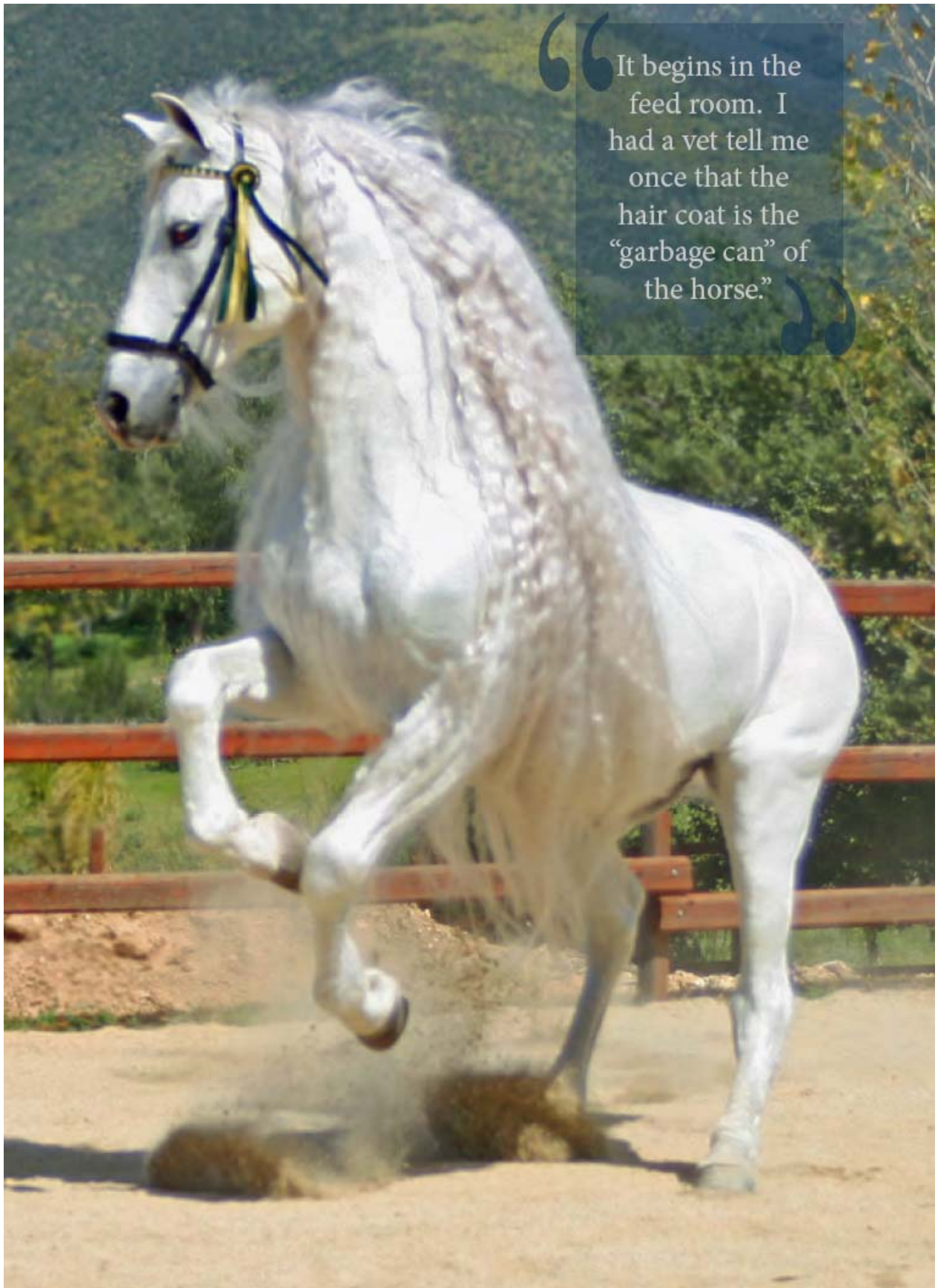
4. His mane lives in braids and the braids in bags ALL THE TIME unless he is being exhibited. All work outs at home and even the warm-ups his braids are in bags. I tease him that he is like an old movie actress in her curlers and cold cream at home. The braids are loose at the roots and then tight to the ends and I use elastics without metal.

5. His stall is bedded with shavings and is cleaned twice a day.

6. His tail didn't grow past his pasterns until I put it in a bag. Because there were so many flies at our previous barns he used to swish his tail and break much of it off. Now I have moved to a barn where there are next to no flies because they use a feed through fly control product in the summer. Now he doesn't break off his tail from swishing and it too has grown to the ground.

It takes many hours to do all of this work and can take up to 40 minutes alone to remove all the bags and undo the braids. A shower bath can take 4 hours and needs an assistant as there will be two soapings and two conditionings and all the comb-out. At home I divide the work so he does not spend all day in the bath: the body and tail on one day, the mane on another, the head and forelock on a third. If I had to think of one word that guides my efforts I would say that word is CLEAN. Everything is as clean as I can make it and so that he doesn't rub, rolling does not damage it, there are no tangles to yank clumps of hair out and it keeps growing.

I hope this gives you some ideas about caring for your “Big Hair” horse. Garrido is 21 now and will be retiring soon. I may just cut it all off and place it in a braid next to his portrait. I will have a big pasture where he will get and stay as dirty as he likes. I hope that it makes up for all the “clean” he has had to live with. I will have to find something else to do with my “free time”!



“It begins in the feed room. I had a vet tell me once that the hair coat is the “garbage can” of the horse.”

**Mylessa and Garrido, West Wind Training Stables. YouTube: zzzMylessazzz
www.westwindtrainingstables.com**

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Club Day Competition – Sunday 20th November 2011

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



Entry Form

RIDER _____

HORSE _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

1st Test Level _____ 2nd Test Level _____

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 20th November 2011 GLENBRAE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, VICTORIA ROAD WANDIN

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

Entries Close – Friday 10th November 2011

Fees – Club Members - \$20 per test

Event Secretary – Janice Herzig
P.O Box 297 Wandin North Vic 3139

**Scratchings on the day to
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 6th place
- ◆ Each test is ridden once
- ◆ EA Rules apply
- ◆ 2nd level may be entered if sufficient time
- ◆ Clean and neat attire
- ◆ Open to current YVDC members only
- ◆ **NO DOGS ALLOWED**
- ◆ **Yummy free lunch!**

