

October 2008



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President's Report

Greetings to all members of YVDC,

Our big day was a great success yesterday. To me it was a smooth running, stress free and a happy day with the satisfaction that the proceeds were being used for such a meaningful cause.

I would like to acknowledge the fantastic effort of so many members. Those who personally emailed me for penciling jobs and other jobs, I thank, for without you the day could not proceed. However accolades must go to those members who were responsible for running the whole event - Jenny, Michelle, Sharon and our new competition secretary Jan. I don't know how they stayed focused for soooo long throughout the day.

Isn't it great to have the glorious sunshine again? I never thought it would return. We can now make up for lost horsey time. That's if we don't get caught up in menial tasks like, housework, gardening, cooking, shopping, employment, Christmas preparations, babysitting, etc. Can you tell that I am now retired?

Talking of Christmas...have you checked your emails for the date and venue for our Club Christmas breakup? Pam needs to get numbers info into the Yarra Glen Hotel pretty soon. Hope many of you can make it. Phone or email Pam if you want to have a chat about it.

See you at our Hong Kong Olympic video night or the next Club competition.

Cheers, Maureen



EFA Corner – October Report

By Rae Ansell, YVDC Committee

For those who are not aware, I am the Yarra Valley Dressage Club's representative on the VICTORIAN DRESSAGE SUB COMMITTEE. As such, I attend a meeting every 2nd month in North Melbourne. The job of the Sub Committee is to further the development of dressage in our state and to represent VICTORIA at the National level.

The chairperson for the current term is Lady Susannah Clarke. We have representatives from other dressage clubs – Berwick, Macedon, South Eastern, Victorian D.C., Westernport, Western Victoria and Whittlesea – as well as representatives from the Dressage Selectors, the Dressage Judges, Events Director and Young Rider.

I will be incorporating a report in our newsletter after every meeting from now on. This is the forum to air any ideas, problems or suggestions you may have which you think should be brought to the attention of this committee. I am there to represent all of our members, so if you have something to say, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Over the past 12 months, the DSC has achieved quite an amount. We have successfully changed the dressage calendar – moving the DWTS from December to April and the Victorian State Championships (Dressage Festival) from April to December. This was seen as a positive for a number of reasons. Firstly, the young horse competitions – the horses would have an extra 4 months before having to compete in these difficult finals. The second reason was to do with the demand on judges during the long hot summer months leading up to the State Championships. Also the riders were much happier to compete during Spring time as the main time to qualify and have January and February to spell the horse during the hottest months and school holiday times.

Yarra Valley D.C. suggested an awards system for riders. We were keen to provide incentives and goals for riders at almost all levels of dressage. These awards are designed to reward horses that consistently earn good scores, regardless of where they place in a class. Rider medals (bronze, silver and gold) will be awarded based on attaining required scores at the necessary levels. The awards will be based strictly on the scores the rider achieves over time and need not be earned in one competition year. Final details of these awards are still being discussed and we hope to launch the completed version at the end of this year.

The Dressage Festival in December still requires more helpers, so if you would like to assist in any area, please contact me so that I can organize you as part of our team. You will be given free admission to the event as a helper. The event runs from 11th – 14th December.

Another very important topic which has taken a lot of our time in discussion is the shortage of judges. The number of competitions is increasing due to rider demand, but the number of judges is falling – therefore placing more demand on the remaining judges. The requirements for becoming a judge have been noted as too onerous and taking too much time. On taking up these comments, the DJEP have introduced a fast tracking system for those riders who have competed at a high level. They can come into the judging ranks at Level C – they still have to pass an exam and do some training and mentoring, but this cuts down the time it has taken by a long way. We are also now in the process of trying to fast track those interested who have ridden at lower levels of competition to D and E levels. Anyone who thinks they may be able to take on some judging, or would like to find out more, should contact either myself or Helen Heagney

I hope this information will help you all to keep abreast of the happenings in the Dressage world.

Until December...

Rae Ansell

Club Calendar

October 31 st	Olympics Video Night at Jan Herzig's place – member's night – page 18
November 7 th	Entries <u>close</u> for Freshman's Competition Day page 22
November 16 th	Freshman's Competition Day .2 tests at Glenbrae
December 6 th	Christmas Breakup Party – Yarra Glen Grand Hotel, Dining Room – page 21
January 11 th	Cancer Council Victoria Fundraiser at Werribee Park NEC

Club Leaderboard

The Leaderboard is still the same as last month as it is based on Club Day competitions and so is not reproduced this month.

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You! Report by Sharon Gorton

To all YVDC club members and friends who helped make our Breast Cancer Fundraiser such a success!

YVDC members and friends can certainly hold their heads high in the Dressage World as we gave of our time, effort, money and support to come together for such a worthy cause. Some lucky people found themselves involved in our day just because they were a friend of a friend of Maureen's.

To the gear checkers Sharon Streeter, Jan Kennan, John and Chris Scruton, who certainly knew a lot more about horses by the end of the day, and Elaine Castellini. Without their assistance the competition couldn't get under way.

To the pencilers, Chris Sudal, Debra Hodgson, Hayley Moule, Anne Dunlop, Barb Geoffrey, Sam Ruedegger, Lisa Wilds, Linda Krive, Judy Gronn, Maree Beasley, Kris Ford, Lauren Robson, Des Miller, Judy Thomson, Viv Axton, Leanne Atwell, Karen Webb, Sandra Norster, Karalyn Mc Donald, Kim Anning, Pam Scott, Marion Horsfall, Kylie Pedder, Monica Bird and Rae Ansell, who maybe didn't know a judge could have so much to say.

To the kangaroos Joanna Hambling, Alana Moule, Demi Thomas, Ashley Krive who ran all day and had the scorers saying slow down you move too fast.

To the scorers - what a time they had laughing out loud while Sharon learnt to add. Many thanks to Michelle and Craig Oliver, Jenny Wall, Maggie Farrell. Thanks also to Bob and Joy who tried to stay away but couldn't resist and appeared at the end of the day!

Many thanks to Linda and Ashley Krive. Ashley is a young rider, and her mum Linda encouraged her to help after riding. You know you are doing something special when competitors who are not part of the club pitch in and help. Thanks to Adrian McMillan, whose wife Heather McMillan rode BPH Fremantle in the Preliminary competition, for generously donating a beautiful print for the silent auction – a talented photographer who gave to our cause. Please remember to visit the websites of our sponsors and drop them an email to say thanks for providing such great support. A special mention and thanks must also go to those competitors who donated their prize money back to the cause! To any others who I may have forgotten to name please accept my apologies, but thank you all the same.

Finally congratulations to the Committee of YVDC who have shown the foresight to 'put back into the wider community' through this wonderful competition. We are still finalizing the accounts, but it currently looks like we have raised around **\$6500** for The National Breast Cancer Foundation to be used for research! Great effort!! Well done everyone!!!

Special thanks to all of our Fundraiser Sponsors



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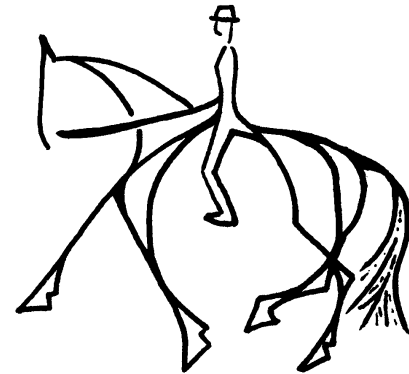
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A photograph of a woman wearing a red quilted vest over a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, standing outdoors.

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Thanks to the Judges who, by donating their services, have contributed \$1900 to Breast Cancer Research...

Adam Riess
Belinda Dawkins
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Cecile Van Kemenade
Glen Gault
Jill Sinclair
Joan O'Reiley
Lorraine Porter

M Kelly
Madeline Moss
Maria Millikan
Rob Clay
Robert Hammond
Rosemary Dalton
Sue Inness
Tricia Read

Veronica Blanks

Not only did they forgo their fee, they added to their wardrobes and wine cellars by purchasing goods in the silent auctions and making many donations to the cause.
Three cheers for the judges!!!

Joan Kerford
YVDC Member

Sponsor of Preliminary 1.4

Pam Miskin
YVDC Member

**Sponsor of
Rider Survivor Award Rug**

To those who provided or sourced items for the

Silent Auction

THANK YOU...

Judy & John Thompson "Valley View" Winery	
Chris & Martin Sudal - Lorraine Lea Linen	
Judy & Colin Gronn	Jill Sinclair
Maureen Howe	Meaghan Willis
Pam Miskin	Jenny Wall
Nicole Dyer	Amanda Goodman
Marie Beasley	Pam Scott
Sharon Gorton	Adrian McMillan



Results for all classes are on pages 15 – 18

Congratulations to *Sally McDonald* riding *Europa* in the Medium classes who won the Rider Survivor Award & Trophy Rug for the highest percentage for a registered competitor! This was 2-in-a-row for Sally who won the award previously at our first Breast Cancer Fundraiser in 2006 on her other horse *Ossifa Praxa*. On her suggestion we will be renaming the award in the future to the Live to Ride Award - which has more positive connotations.

Births, Deaths and Marriages

Vivace Cordyte's first foal!!

Sam and Marc Ruedegger of Vivace Dressage Stud in Healesville welcome their young stallion Cordyte's first foal, who came into the world just before midnight Friday 24th October. The robust bay colt was quick to get up on his long legs and shows his sire's gentle, inquisitive nature. Sporting his dad's deep-set shoulder and compact body, Sam and Marc couldn't be more excited about what young Cordyte has produced – he has certainly stamped his first foal with the expectations of his bloodline. Most importantly, his dotting mum – Margaret – has recovered really well, and will be kept on her toes by this young man with a snip on his nose and a crescent star. They express their thanks to Jan Miller at Freedom Quarter Horses for her expertise and care in ensuring a safe arrival for their first Cordyte son!



Farewell “Ross” (AKA Ceille Anndrais Cirrus)

By Pam Miskin

As Carol Ross put it so well when writing about her beloved Rooster Coghburn.... we are lucky if we have, just once in our lifetime, one of those horses who is far far more than our riding partner, but is a very special member of your family...

In the early hours of Sunday 19th October, when I should have sound asleep in my bed in preparation for the big Fundraiser Competition, I was saying a last farewell to one such animal, my beloved 29 year old Anglo Arab “Ross”, down at the Werribee Veterinary Hospital where I had rushed him for emergency treatment for colic. The surprising thing was that he had been so fit and healthy all of his life and was still being ridden occasionally by family and friends, which he really enjoyed. He outwardly looked far younger than his near three decades.



Ross - no, I didn't name him! - was by a very well regarded imported German stallion Mustafa (Egyptian) out of a thoroughbred mare. He was bred in Victoria and was bought from the stud by Sue Clarke of Yellingbo. Sue rode him for a number of years as a youngster and I can recall seeing her on him at Glenbrae one day and being very impressed by his sweet face, lovely frame and general attitude. While Ross was not a big horse at 15.2hh, he certainly attracted attention anywhere he went. Sue had intended to breed from him - until one day he managed to do the splits with his hind legs while showing off in the paddock - and so that was the end of his days as an entire!

At the time I was struggling with a cold-backed, bronco horse I had bought from Charlie Moffat (at auction) whom I was hoping to event. After he had dumped me and all my riding friends numerous times, it was time for him to go...and then came the phone call from Sue. Would I like to swap my mad, buck-jumping thoroughbred for Ross?!? OMG!!! I couldn't believe my ears!! My husband Trevor and I couldn't get my horse on the float fast enough, together with a bottle of good champagne, and down to Sue before she changed her mind! Charlotte Stibbard was living with Sue and John Clarke at the time and the two of them thought that my mad horse could possibly make a good dressage mount.

And so Ross, the beautiful solid bay, former stallion, was about to come into my life and change my direction with horses forever...and I am so glad he did. Sue did warn me however that he was “a bit of a wee character”...

Right from Day 1, Ross and everything about him made us laugh....

The day of his arrival, Sue and Charlotte drove up my driveway to deliver Ross – they pulled up and asked me where I would like them to park the car and float – I said “Oh anywhere you like” – so they stopped where they were and got out of the car.... and then Sue screamed “Oh no!!! Where is the float?!?!?” I had thought that John must have been following them in another car pulling the float and Ross, but no...Sue and Charlotte had just driven for 20 minutes thinking they were pulling a horse float – even moving over to allow cars to pass them – while poor little Rossy was waiting patiently in the float, parked on their nature strip!!!! They forgot to hook it up!



Ross and I quickly formed a great partnership under Charlotte’s expert tuition. We learnt about dressage and jumping and had many wonderful times and adventures together. While Ross was not a great mover by any stretch of the imagination, he was kind, tolerant, mostly obedient and a very quick learner. Charlotte took us from Preliminary through to Advanced over the years. Ross found piaffe easy and his tempi changes were always good fun. We had many years of EFA competition together, a highlight being the 1994 Diana Ferrari competition at Glenbrae where he and his best mate Go For It (Gofa) ridden by Judy Gronn won the Pas de Deux – with a routine straight out of Hollywood. That was our one and only mention and photo in The Horse Magazine!!

The most memorable times with Ross however were at home on the farm. Sue had warned me he liked cars...but she didn’t quite say just how much! I had acquired my first brand new 4WD (hubbie is incredibly car-proud) – within weeks of its arrival Ross sank his teeth into the bonnet and dragged them down the paintwork – I think he liked the sound it made! He thought that windscreen wipers tasted pretty good too – so on another day when we weren’t looking he ripped them off just for fun. Then there was the side mirror – taste testing again confirmed it was made of glass - as the little pieces fell to the ground. But his piece de resistance was the day that Trevor drove his car up the driveway – having just picked it up from the panel beaters after 2 months of work (a semitrailer had nearly killed him) – Ross grazing in the driveway greeted Trev by kicking in the back passenger door as he drove slowly past!!!! The panel beater couldn’t believe his luck the next day!

Ross loved water – he was part Arab after all – so every trough was fair game – we lost count of how many floats he broke as he pawed and pawed and pawed. Twice over the years he completely emptied our 20,000-gallon house water tank, by breaking the float in a trough! I was wondering why I could hear frogs croaking happily in my front paddock! In the end we changed all our concrete troughs to those huge new plastic ones just to make it easier for him on sunny days to have a splash.

I should mention that in the early days together I was still a bit smitten with the idea of eventing, silly me...and so after much training, purchasing of appropriate safety equipment, time etc I headed off to my first official one day event with Ross down at Cape Patterson...egged on by my very experienced eventing friend Kerry Buckland. No expense was spared – we stayed in a hotel overnight in preparation for the big day. Dressage test was great – he was right up there in the top placings – clear show jumping round – wow this eventing game was easy – so off to the cross country. Kerry and I settled Ross into the start box for the count down, the flag fell and Ross refused to budge!!! There was no way he was going to go galloping away from all of his newly found friends! Kerry dragged him out of the start box to let the next horse in and we went home with our tail between our legs and looking for a new career!

Ross taught my nieces the fundamentals of riding, allowed children and adults of all ages – and nationalities – to climb on board. He never put a foot wrong. The only person to ever fall off him was Trevor

– and that was when he tried to mount from an embankment and overshot the mark landing on his bottom on the other side of the horse!

He celebrated his 21st Birthday with a cake, carrots and friends – even wearing a birthday hat for the occasion. He never seemed to mind when we dressed him up for fun – gloves on the ears for reindeer antlers at Christmas, large bow ties and bells for the DF competition...we had such fun together.

Ross certainly was a 'once in a lifetime horse' and he has left a very large hole in our family...but I have my fingers crossed that my delightful Rotspon youngster Ashleigh Rococo may fit quite well into his big shoes in the future.



Hayley Beresford Marries Kian Bullock in Positano, Italy

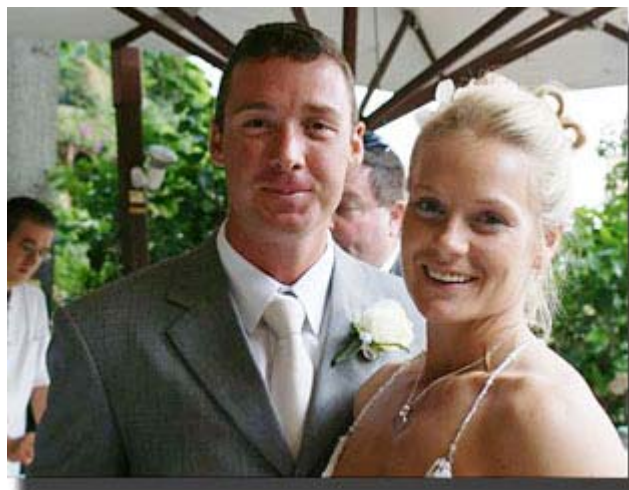
Australian Olympic team rider Hayley Beresford got married to her boyfriend Kian Bullock in a small ceremony at the beach side resort Positano, Italy. Beresford met Bullock, a civil engineer based in London, on a skiing trip in New Zealand in 2004 and the pair has been together ever since.

"It is a bit of a fairytale the last few years, actually. It's a real fairytale," Beresford told AAP at the 2008 Olympics in Hong Kong.

In the spring 2004 the then 25-year old Hayley Beresford was diagnosed with breast cancer. "It was cancer. We dealt with it and we fixed it," she said. "I kept riding the whole way through. Never once did I think it was going to beat me." Hayley had surgery and underwent radiotherapy and was diagnosed cancer-free in 2007.

One week after finishing radiotherapy for breast cancer, Beresford travelled to Queenstown, New Zealand, where she met West Australian Kian Bullock from the Gold Coast as the ski lift carried the pair up The Remarkables. One year later, Bullock took Beresford back to the alpine town to propose.

Having had cancer, Beresford claims that it made her "a much more compassionate person." Before she had cancer, she considered herself too unbalanced. "Everything was just about horses, horses, horses. When I had the cancer, I really went into family protection mode."



In November 2006, the 28-year old Hayley moved to Rheinberg, Germany to train under Isabell Werth, whom she met at masterclasses in Australia in 2000 and 2005. She began riding Eduardo Fischer's Lusitano stallion Relampago do Retiro in November 2006 and two years later the pair made it to the 2008 Olympic Games as Australian team members.



International News

Isabell Werth has an impressive win in Odense, Denmark



The FEI World Cup™ Final winner of 2007 Isabell Werth made an impressive start by winning the first leg of the 2008-2009 FEI World Cup™ Series for the Western European League in Odense, Denmark.

Silver Olympic medallist Isabell Werth didn't make it easy for herself, combining her show start in Odense with a clinic in Helsinki. She flew in and surprised the Finnish audience with a great clinic showing her skills and praising her first riding instructor Dr Schulten Baumer as well as her current instructor Wolfram Wittig and her horse owner and valued advisor and friend Madeleine Winter Schulze.

The clinic in Helsinki didn't prevent Isabell from winning both the Grand Prix and the Freestyle in Odense, thus grabbing the first World Cup points in the new season of the Western European League. "I was very pleased with my Hannes", Isabell praised the big Hanoverian chestnut Warum Nicht. "He was not distracted in his first indoor show and was very concentrated on his job. Although I had some mistakes, I was happy with his performance." In the extended canter a mistake occurred when Warum Nicht

made a change behind and there was a mistake in the one tempi changes. However the judges praised the risks Isabell took in both of her rides and the flair and impulsion she presented the big Hanoverian gelding with.

Anky van Grunsven relied on her black stallion IPS Painted Black for Odense. In the Grand Prix, the stallion had a little too much on his mind and was not always cooperative. In the Freestyle, however, Anky had the horse on her side which resulted in a much more fluent presentation and a very nice contact and uphill image. "Only at the CDI3* in Lingen I had higher marks than this time. I am very happy with him", Anky commented. "I do regret, though, the mistake in the two tempi changes, which might have prevented a record score with this horse."

Third and fourth place also went to The Netherlands. From an almost impossible position and an early start after the eighth place in the Grand Prix, Olympian Hans Peter Minderhoud had a ride of a lifetime aboard the mare Exquis Nadine. Only the last part of the test showed a little unevenness and the pair received the third position. Fourth was Jeannette Haazen, who with her cheerful and pleasant ride aboard Nartan swept away the bad memories from her car accident on the road to Scandinavia last year.

Monica Theodorescu, who in 1993 and 1994 rode the musical performer by heart Ganimedes to World Cup™ wins, was present in Odense showing Whisper and while the Grand Prix was a joy for the eye, the Freestyle did not go as smoothly leaving the pair in fifth place.

The best placed Danish rider was Nathalie zu Sayn Wittgenstein. Nathalie zu Sayn Wittgenstein has always dreamed of riding for Denmark at the Olympic Games. She managed to give the ride of her life on Digby in Hong Kong and supplied the team's highest score for the bronze. "I couldn't expect Digby to be in the form of Hong Kong, however it was a joy to be back in my home country again and to feel the welcome atmosphere and the happiness around. We have celebrated the medal of course", Nathalie said.

Olympic champion and FEI World Cup™ Final winner of 2008 Anky van Grunsven said that the participation in this first leg had been a record field. "I wonder whether any World Cup™ Qualifier will have this participation on the starting list. Great for Odense, Scandinavia and the FEI World Cup™", Anky

praised the organisers. The Odense organisers did earn the positive words, as the show was sold out and they had for the second year in a row a great field and great prize money. Runner up Anky van Grunsven also won a trailer as an extra prize, as for Isabell, she is the proud owner of a new car. "Last year I gave it to my sister. I have to decide what to do now", Isabell commented. Her first thoughts however are for her horses. "In Stuttgart after a deserved rest in the field Satchmo will be back in the arena", Isabell promised. Frankfurt will be her next FEI World Cup™ qualifier.

RESULTS

1. Warum Nicht FRH (Isabell WERTH, Germany)	80,70%
2. IPS Painted Black (Anky VAN GRUNSVEN, The Netherlands)	79,60%
3. Exquis Nadine (Hans Peter Minderhoud, The Netherlands)	77,45%
4. Nartan (Jeannette HAAZEN The Netherlands)	77,10%
5. Whisper (Monica THEODORESCU, Germany)	76,90%
6. Digby (Nathalie ZU SAYN WITTGENSTEIN)	75,20%
7. Exquis Clearwater DWB (Anne VAN OLST, Denmark)	74,55%
8. Björsell Briar (Jan BRINK, Sweden)	74,10%

2008 P.S.I. Auction

P.S.I. Gears Up for 2008 PSI Auction with Impressive Horse Collection

Ullrich Kasselman and Paul Schockemohle, the brains behind P.S.I., are gearing up for another spectacular PSI auction on 13 and 14 December 2008. This year's collection of horses is as impressive as ever and includes numerous Bundeschampionate finalists and champions. Buyers, who were outbid in 2007, can looking forward to the 29th Performance Sales International Auction in which only horses that belong to and have been trained under the supervision of the PSI team are included.

Horses are usually auctioned for prices between 40,000 and 800,000 euro so each ambitious dressage rider can find his choice in the collection.

Each year, the PSI auction collection includes seasoned young competition horses who have made it to the Bundeschampionate, the most important young horse show in Germany of the season.

This year, four dressage horses of the 2008 auction collection made it to the 2008 Bundeschampionate Finals. The dark bay Rhinelander Laetare (by Lord Sinclair x Lancer II x Phantom) became 4-year old riding horse Bundeschampion under Eva Möller, while Wyllow R (by Wolkentanz II x Don Primero x Frühlingsball) won the bronze medal in the 5-year old dressage horse division and is a horse beaming with FEI potential. The 5-year old Hanoverian mare Donna Weltina (by Don Frederico x Weltruhm x Ecuador xx) was a finalist at the 2008 World Championships for Young Dressage Horses. She also won the Bremen Bundeschampionate qualifier and finished 12th in the Bundeschampionate finals. The delightful 4-year old Westfalian Blickpunkt (by Belissimo x Weltmeyer x Argentinus) made an impression in the 4-year old riding horse class.



The Bundeschampionate are the touchstone for quality dressage horses. At the 2008 Bundeschampionate, five former PSI horses came into action. Reggae Ann (by Rotspon x Matcho AA), Ronja M (by Relevant x Weltmeyer), Weitsicht (by Welt Hit O x Andrew), Rossano R (by Rohdiamant x Weltmeyer) and King Size (by King Arthur x Don Schufro) were all sold through PSI and have proved their new owners with competition joy and success.

“We know our horses blindfolded and can give information on the various development stages for most of the horses. We stand behind every one of our “pupils” with our name and are confident that we will see them often in future international sport,” said Dr. Ulf Moeller, responsible for the buying and sales at Hof Kasselmann.

The complete 2008 PSI auction collection will be online soon.

Check out www.psi-auktion.de for more information



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Learn How to Build a Good Connection

Insight for building a good connection with the horse to develop the art of dressage.

By Yvonne Barteau

Whereas contact is simply the feeling of the horse's mouth at the end of the reins, a good connection is a much more sophisticated feel and a subtle yet highly effective way for horse and rider to get and receive information from one another. Connection involves an elastic feel from the snaffle rein that travels through the arms, back, seat and legs of the rider. When true connection is established, the entire body becomes an effective and polished communication instrument, and that is where the art of dressage begins.

I have come to realize--and I really wish I had known this earlier--that a connection doesn't build from something; it builds from nothing. Yes, you read that right. The best connection starts from nothing but an independent relaxed seat and the quiet, neutral absence of aids. I have learned over the years that the best riders are successful largely because they have honed the ability to do nothing--to sit immobile and centered, at ease and in neutral. To be neutral in your body means being connected to your horse without inadvertently giving him any unnecessary information, just an elastic feel from your body through the reins to your horse's mouth.

Even after I understood this concept, it still took a good deal of time for me to eliminate the "white noise" from my riding. I had to be sure my seat was centered, soft, supple and still. I had to eliminate all fidgeting with the reins and nagging with the legs. Every movement, every aid had to mean something or it should not be applied. That is neutral. Once you have quieted down your riding, you will be amazed at how much better your horse will respond to you.

Most of the time, your horse is reacting to some kind of signal that you are sending him, whether you mean to give him an aid or not. If the only "something" that he hears is a direct, quiet and softly spoken aid that comes from a supple, balanced and neutral rider, his response will surely be a generous one. Often, we think we are doing nothing, but we are being unknowingly noisy with tension in the hips, arms or shoulders, too much rein pressure or nagging restless legs. Our horses react in many ways to this constant stimulation. Some stiffen, block and ignore us; while others become restless and fidgety themselves. Nothing that resembles art can come from such chaos.



Learning to be neutral starts with an independent seat, using the body to balance and relax rather than holding on. The lunge line is an excellent tool to teach a rider how to become independent. Once you have an independent seat, you can start with the reins, but don't apply rein aids that don't have meaning. Start with the softest connection that both you and the horse are comfortable with and after every rein aid, go back to that feel. It takes both time and patience to be able to do nothing. Take the time. Learn to have patience.

Teaching connection is difficult. I start talking to my students about connection very early, but it is really just words until they can begin to make use of these words by developing their feel; the horses start to reward them by responding appropriately. First they might get a feel for the energy that passes from front to back or back to front and then how the energy is received by the hind legs. Next, I instruct them to be aware the second that energy is lost. Timing develops by feel, and learning to ride in neutral develops feel.

Once you get the feeling of a true connection, you will want to recreate it again and again. It is important during this process to remember neutral and go back to it after every interaction. If you do as little as



possible and as much as necessary whenever you want to achieve something, you will not go far wrong. Less is always more in dressage. Once you have that connection, your horse's gaits will look their best, and you will be a welcome partner to your horse and not a noisy intruder.

Yvonne Barteau is a U.S. Dressage Federation bronze, silver and gold medalist. She and her husband, Kim, train out of Indian Hills Training Center in Gilberts, Ill. Her book on horse personalities is Ride the Right Horse, by Storey Publishing and available at HorseBooksEtc.com.

Warmblood Classes at Lilydale Show Report by Kim Anning

Date: Saturday 15th November; Venue: Lilydale Show Grounds, Maroondah Hwy Lilydale; Ring: 2

Classes are offered for Led Male, 2 years & under; Led Male, 3 years & over; Led Female, 2 years & under; Led Female, 3 years & over, Champion Exhibit & Reserve.

Ridden Male; Ridden Female; Champion & Reserve Ridden

Horses must be registered with a Warmblood registry – virtually any one including AWWA, ISSA, ACE, AWWA, Trakehner, Hanoverian, Holsteiner.

Programs are available at Horseland Lilydale or ring 9735 1292 for further information.

These classes have been sponsored by the AWWA and the Lilydale Show is trialing them. If the classes are not well enough supported with entries, the Show Committee won't offer them again. So *please* go along and give it a go – this is an especially good outing for your youngster!



Update on Ashleigh Donal

Report by Danielle Pooles



Since my last update a couple of months ago a lot has happened in little Ashleigh Donal's life! Now at 9 months old he has been gelded, weaned and began the start of his education to set him in the right direction.

At 5½ months old we had Ash gelded. We decided to do this before he was weaned so that he still had his mum to look after him. I have never experienced a horse being gelded before so was a bit nervous, more because of the bad stories you hear about horses coming out of sedation. Ash wasn't very obliging about the whole procedure, which I have to say I don't blame him! Our vet did a great job at getting the procedure done as quickly as possible and keeping him safe while the sedation wore off. He was very keen to get up straight away, even though his legs weren't able to hold him up, so for about 30 minutes our vet did his best to keep him on the ground to avoid any potential injuries and he was successful. Ash, although being a bit sore and sorry for him self, recovered very quickly.

Ash's next big adventure at 6 months old was to be weaned. With Judy & Colin's advice we floated both Ash and his mum, Jackie, to Rob McCann's property. We took them off the float and walked them into a loose box, where we then removed Jackie straight away. She was put back on the float and brought home again. Ash stayed at Rob's for two weeks to begin his training. Rob worked on teaching him to lead, tie and float as well as all the other important lessons a young horse needs to know, like picking up his feet and being able to put a rug on him. At the end of the two weeks I picked up a gentleman! He was brought back home and paddocked with an old retired horse, which has now become a very good babysitter!



I continued to work with Ash for a few days once he was home to follow up on what Rob had been doing with him and to get him comfortable with me handling him. I now bring him out of the paddock every couple of weeks to keep everything he has learnt fresh in his mind. As he is getting older and behaving better I am finding I can leave longer in between each session. However I still handle him in the paddock every day when he is fed. This isn't a problem as he is very friendly and easy to catch.

So all in all he is growing up very nicely and I can't wait until he is old enough to break in and begin riding!



Danielle & Ashleigh Donal at home.

YVDC Breast Cancer Fundraiser Results

Preliminary 1.2 Class Sponsored by Joan Kerford
PRELIMINARY 1.2 SAND RING 5

Judges: C Lorraine Porter, Olwen Kemp

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Brookwood Park Feuergress	Paul Dixon	172	169	68.200	1st
Warranbrae Twiggy	Irene Luxmoore	165	165	66.000	2nd
Jaybee Cartier	Melissa Davies	169	157	65.200	3rd
Queens Park Paragon	Catherine Davies	164	159	64.600	4th=
Ebony Park Jorrit	Natasha Altoff-Kelley	159	164	64.600	4th=
Jaybee Cardinal	Robyn Todd	163	159	64.400	6th
Shiranna Cointreau Pony	Ashley Krive	140	147	57.400	1st
Habafield De Beers Pony	Emily Hartney	132	148	56.000	2nd

Preliminary 1.4 Class Sponsored by Paramount Building Supplies

PRELIMINARY 1.4 SAND RING 4

Judge: C Cecile van Kemenade

HORSE	RIDER	C	%	PLACE
Torlea Mr Mojo	Elizabeth Gibbons	160	64.000	1st
Queens Park Paragon	Catherine Davies	159	63.600	2nd
Carlyle Park Café	Jane Jones	158	63.200	3rd
Woodleigh Donato	Sunday McKay	155	62.000	4th
Brookwood Park Feuergress	Paul Dixon	154	61.600	5th
Isalove	Amanda Neilson	153	61.200	6th
Habafield De Beers Pony	Emily Hartney	136	54.400	1st
Shiranna Cointreau Pony	Ashley Krive	128	51.200	2nd

Preliminary Champion: Brookwood Park Feuergress

Sponsored By: Ashmore & James Travel Associates

NOVICE 2.2 SAND ARENA 3

Judges: C Glen Gault M/H Joan O'Reilly

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Silverdene Pharaoh	Melissa Robertson	167	175	68.400	1st
Windfern Ragan	Jessica McMahon	155	169	64.800	2nd
Ecosais Mac-Talla	Anne Sundbloom	153	166	63.800	3rd
Yuschenko	Sara Love	153	165	63.600	4th
Robert Henry	Elizabeth Hughes	154	158	62.400	5th
Broadway Jazz Singer	Glenys Hazelman	156	155	62.200	6th

Sponsored By: Ashmore & James Travel Associates

NOVICE 2.4 SAND ARENA 2

Judges: C Adam Reiss, M/H Madeline Moss

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Silverdene Pharaoh	Melissa Robertson	179	172	70.200	1st
Ashleigh Royale	Nicole Vanatta	164	166	66.000	2nd
Robert Henry	Elizabeth Hughes	164	158	64.400	3rd
Windfern Ragan	Jessica McMahon	163	150	62.600	4th
Interjet B	Samantha McKenzie	160	149	61.800	5th
Yuschenko	Sara Love	145	155	60.000	6th=
Kendalee Whelem	Sue Leslie	151	149	60.000	6th=

Novice Champion: Silverdene Pharaoh

Elementary Classes Sponsored by: The Riders Shoppe

ELEMENTARY 3.2 SAND ARENA 5

Judges: C Adam Reiss, M/H Belinda Dawkins

Elementary Classes Sponsored by: The Riders Shoppe

ELEMENTARY 3.2 SAND ARENA 5

Judges: C Adam Reiss, M/H Belinda Dawkins

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Riverwood Paris	Ian Balfour	214	227	64.853	1st
Donatella	Heidi Vowles	212	224	64.118	2nd
Feru	Heather Gee	211	218	63.088	3rd
Roddick	Kathryn Thornton	191	214	59.559	4th
Woodmount Buzz	Christine Mcelwain	191	211	59.118	5th
Northern Apollo III	Courtney Powles	187	212	58.676	6th

Elementary Classes Sponsored by: The Riders Shoppe

ELEMENTARY 3.4 SAND ARENA 4

Judges: C Maria Millikan, M/H Tricia Read

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Riverwood Paris	Ian Balfour	236	221	65.286	1st
Northern Apollo III	Courtney Powles	228	213	63.000	2nd
Feru	Heather Gee	222	217	62.714	3rd
Broadway Jazz Singer	Glenys Hazelman	226	204	61.429	4th
Donatella	Heidi Vowles	217	212	61.286	5th
Roddick	Kathryn Thornton	217	208	60.714	6th

Elementary Champion: Riverwood Paris

Medium Classes Sponsored by: Cube Management Solutions

MEDIUM 4.2 INDOOR ARENA 1

Judges: C Rob Clay, M/H Sue Inness

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Tulloch Ard	Sara Love	213	204	67.258	1st
Heatherton Park Welcom	Emmie Schmul	209	204	66.613	2nd=
Northern Leandro	Faye Hinchliffe Junior	208	205	66.613	2nd=
Flowervale Ferraza	Kylie Burton	210	200	66.129	4th
Don Angelo	Marianne Crawford	208	201	65.968	5th
Ebony Park Abe	Natasha Althoff-Kelley	201	185	62.258	6th=
Peacemaker	Amanda Mitchell	203	183	62.258	6th=
Champagne Riley	Leanne Atwell Pony	179	152	53.387	1st

Medium Champion: Flowervale Ferraza

Medium Classes Sponsored by: Cube Management Solutions

MEDIUM 4.4 SAND ARENA 2

Judge: C M Kelly

HORSE	RIDER	SCORE	%	PLACE
Flowervale Ferraza	Kylie Burton	238	62.632	1st
Peacemaker	Amanda Mitchell	234	61.579	2nd
Ebony Park Abe	Natasha Althoff-Kelley	232	61.053	3rd
CC Laurenz	Gitte Donvig	231	60.789	4th
Brierley Menna	Kylie Pedder	230	60.526	5th
Balenciaga	Gillian Canapini	228	60.000	6th

Advanced 5.2 Class Sponsored by: Aitkens Saddlery**ADVANCED 5.2 SAND RING 1**

Judges: C Bev Shandley M/H Jill Sinclair

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Camelot's Clint Eastwood	Julia Battams	274	281	69.375	1st
PD Brentago II	Katie Eggleton	252	251	62.875	2nd
Cornell's Winning Formula	Jason James	255	238	61.625	3rd
Duelloak Aragorn	Tristan Tucker	239	232	58.875	4th
Alessandro	Warwick Mclean	222	245	58.375	5th
Aubaine Colorado	Katy Welsh	239	227	58.250	6th

Advanced 5.4 Class Sponsored by: Vivace Dressage Stables**ADVANCED 5.4 SAND RING 1**

Judges: C Rosemary Dalton H/M Anne Hall

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
PD Brentago II	Katie Eggleton	260	262	62.143	1st
Alessandro	Warwick Mclean	260	260	61.905	2nd
Camelot's Clint Eastwood	Julia Battams	250	267	61.548	3rd
Duelloak Aragorn	Tristan Tucker	270	239	60.595	4th=
Rimini Park Wurlitzer	Jenny Hewitt	264	245	60.595	4th=
Aubaine Colorado	Katy Welsh	251	246	59.167	6th

Advanced Champion: PD Brentago II

Prix St George/Inter I Classes Sponsored by: Yarra Valley Warmblood Stud**PRIX ST GEORGE INDOOR ARENA 1**

Judges: C Robert Hammond, H/M Wendy Stecher

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
AEA ET ONE	Amanda Goodman	264	236	62.500	1st
Yarra Valley Octavius	Kim Wright-Smith	240	252	61.500	2nd
Don Shiraz	Shannon McKimmie	236	252	61.000	3rd
Whiteway Warrior	Nicole Bennett	238	248	60.750	4th
Southern Cross Tamarisk	Jessica McMahon	225	259	60.500	5th
Belcam Carrington	Kerry Sisely	233	246	59.875	6th

INTERMEDIATE I SAND RING 3

Judges: C Veronica Blanks H/M Wendy Stecher

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Don Shiraz	Shanon McKimmie	249	264	64.125	1st
Yarra Valley Octavius	Kim Wright-Smith	248	263	63.875	2nd
Argentina II	Gitte Donvig	250	249	62.375	3rd
The Carrock Victor	Sheree McConachy	236	257	61.625	4th
Belcam Castello	Viv Axton	239	249	61.000	5th
Northern Charmer	Elaine Castellini	235	252	60.875	6th

Small Tour Champion: Don Shiraz on countback (highest % in Inter 1)

Grand Prix/Inter II Classes Sponsored By: Pedders Suspension

GRAND PRIX SAND RING 1

Judges: C Veronica Blanks, M/H Rosemary Dalton

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Clifton Court Luccini	Pauline Carnovale	272	318	61.458	1st
Sunbury Lodge Playwright	Judy Peel	272	274	56.875	2nd
Luthando	Simone Bell	238	298	55.833	3rd
Chiaretto	Warwick Mclean	236	274	53.125	4th
Northern Apollo	Carolyn Earl	233	250	50.313	5th

INTERMEDIATE II SAND RING 1

Judges: C Veronica Blanks, M/H Rosemary Dalton

HORSE	RIDER	C	M/H	%	PLACE
Sunbury Lodge Playwright	Judy Peel	264	278	66.098	1st
Argentina II	Gitte Donvig	226	247	57.683	2nd
Raleigh Park Oscar	Fiona McKenzie	217	238	55.488	3rd
Northern Charmer	Elaine Castellini	206	226	52.683	4th

Large Tour Champion: Sunbury Lodge Playwright

Members Evening

Beijing Olympic Games 2008

Yarra Valley Dressage Club DVD/Video Night

You are invited to attend an evening of film, fun and food with other members of the Yarra Valley Dressage Club on...

Friday 31st October 2008

7pm start

Jan & Gary Herzig

“Silvan Park”

50 Webster Road,

Silvan

Melways 123 K4 (cnr Webster Road & Eleanor Drive)

Please RSVP Phone: 9737 9237 Mobile: 0412 170 566

Please bring a plate of sweet or savoury nibbles to share and BYO drinks.

Judy & Colin Gronn (Ashleigh Drossel Dan) & Liz Wright-Smith (Yarra Valley Mountbatten) will be there to share their Olympic experiences with you.

Classifieds

Horses for Sale

"Milan"

Thoroughbred gelding 6 years old, 16hh. Milan has a sweet nature and he is a real little friend. He always tries hard. Milan is progressing well in his flat work and also, the few times I have jumped him, he goes over whatever I have asked! He would make an ideal Adult Riding Club or Pony Club horse.
Price: \$4800 neg. to right home.

Contact: Joy 0403 608 137



Young horses for sale

3-year-old gelding, 15.3hh bay/brown 4 white socks and star. By Metall (Ferro) out of a Gullet mare. Just broken, very quite nature. 3 good paces.

2-year-old gelding, mature 13.3hh bay/brown with 1 white sock. By Sandreo (Sandro Hit) out of a Gullet mare. Ready to be broken January. Kind natured with 3 good paces.
Both horses for sale due to too many horses.

Contact: Monica Bird 0401577504

Tack and Gear for Sale

Bates Innova Dressage Saddle

17" (Size 1), black with large knee blocks and X-wide gullet (changeable) Cair system. Comes with Bates stirrup leathers. In very good condition - bought brand new in August last year. This saddle is really comfy, gives you a great leg position and allows you to concentrate on what your horse is doing. Great for green youngsters.

Price: \$2400 ono

Contact: Des 0419 764 339

Stubben "Scandica" Dressage Saddle

Black 17" Deep and close contact seat, medium size knee rolls, and medium size gullet. Elk hide seat and knee rolls provide exceptional comfort and grip. Very good condition.

Price: \$3500 new Sell \$1600

Trainers "Baron" Dressage Saddle

Black 17" English leather. Wide gullet. Good condition

Price: \$750

ZILCO "Air-Con" Rug

Summer Combo rug. 6'6" As new condition.

Price: \$50

Contact: Sandy Winzer AH: 5964 9114 about any of the above items.

Sale record of \$880,000 for Oldenburg stallion

October 24, 2008



Statesman

An American-bred Oldenburg stallion has fetched a record price of NZ\$884,000 at the breed's fall sale in Germany. The German-born Statesman (Stedinger x St.Pr.St. Weissendra (Donnerschwee)) sold for €400,000 (US\$515,000; £318,500) at the Autumn Elite Auction of Riding Horses. He was bred by Ann Kitchel of Huntington Farm in Vermont, and was bred from a mare Kitchel bought at auction in Germany seven years ago.

Statesman was purchased by Sascha Schulz and Christoph Umbach, the trainers from Lux Dressage, with their partner Michael Waehnert. The trio also bought the 147cm pony stallion Hennes (Henry x Laura (Balthasar)) for €60,000, and the gelding, Furstengruss (Furst Heinrich x Katara (Welt Hit II)) for €78,000. Statesman will stand at stud at Ludwig Kathmann's in North Germany.

The next top priced horse at the sale was Road Runner (Royal Diamond - Parabol - Furioso II), a grey gelding who sold for €150,000 to a German buyer.



Roadrunner

The third highest priced horse at the auction, Stepdance (Stedinger [Sandro Hit] x St.Pr.St. La Donata (Don Gregory)), was secured by the Bechtolsheimers from Great Britain for €140,000.

The stallion Spezial Dark (Sandro Hit x Pik Donga (Duntroon)) went for €80,000 to Japan's rider, Meiko Yagi, who rode for Japan in the 2008 Olympic Games.

Buyers from throughout Europe and North and South America bought horses. The 86 horses sold at the riding horse sale fetched a total of €2,419,000, with an average of €35,057. The lowest price was €10,000.

Patrick Burssens of Wellington, Florida, who represented Mexico in the Pan American Games and in the World Cup, bought Danke Schon (Depardieu x Ultrafein (Ex Libris)) for a Mexican client. He also bought the mare Die Schone (Don Kennedy x Ridonna (Donnerwerther)) for a client in Argentina.



Stepdance

Canadian Hunter Jumper rider Tanya Harding bought Lady Mecklenburg (Licanto x Rama - Ramiro's Match) and the gelding, Cool Running. Canadian Grand Prix Dressage rider Evi Strasser bought the gelding D'Artagnon le Noir (Don Cardinale x Aliona (Heraldik xx)), and US Grand Prix dressage rider and trainer Debra Wiedmaier picked up the colt Freibeuter (Florencio x St.Pr./El.St. Fabrice (Freiherr)).



Hennes

In the foal auction a full sister to international Grand Prix jumper Arko sold for €47,000. The older full sister fetched €55,000 at the Summer Mixed Sales Auction in Vechta in June.

The 54 youngsters in the foal sale fetched a total of €465,200, with the average €10,113. The five ponies sold for a total of €131,500, averaging €26,300.

Yarra Valley Dressage Club Christmas Function



Please come and join us for dinner and bring your partner if you would like to:

Date: Saturday 6th December 2008

Venue: Yarra Glen Grand Hotel,
Dining Room

Time: 6.30pm onwards

Menu and cost will to be forwarded soon. Drinks at bar prices.

RSVP: Pam Miskin no later than 28th November
Phone: 5967 1879 or pmiskin@wintechnologies.com.au



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Freshman's Day Competition - Sunday 16th November 2008

Each test is ridden twice. Discuss with the Judge between your two tests on how to improve your performance. Ribbons awarded to 6th place. No plaiting or jackets.



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
GEAR CHECK 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 16th November 2008 GLENBRAE EQUESTRIAN CENTRE, VICTORIA ROAD WANDIN

Tests – 1.2, 2.2, 3.2, 4.2, 5.2, Prix St George, Inter1, Inter 11, Grand Prix

Entries Close – Friday 7th November 2008

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
- ◆ Each test is ridden twice
- ◆ 2nd test may be entered if sufficient time
- ◆ No plaiting or jackets, clean neat attire
- ◆ Open to current YVDC members only
- ◆ NO DOGS ALLOWED
- ◆ **Yummy free lunch!**



