



WATAGAN EQUESTRIAN CLUB

December 2014 Newsletter
www.watagan.org.au

Watagan Equestrian Committee

President – Marg Abbott

Vice President – Brett Warren

Treasurer – Kellie Cuskelly

Secretary – Brooke Antees

Dressage Co-ordinator - Rochelle Lawson

Assistant – Libby Sauer



The WEC Committee wishes you a very

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

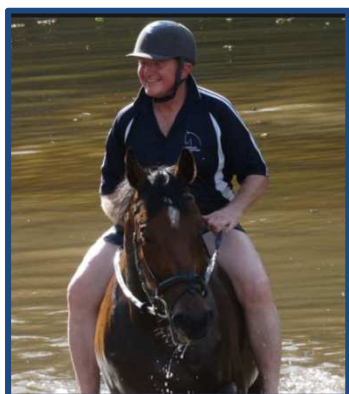
From the President...

Dear Members and Supporters

Wow, can you believe it's nearly Christmas? Hopefully you will all be able to drop into the Cooranbong Equestrian Grounds on Sunday 23rd November and join us for some Christmas drinks at lunch time at the Dressage Protocol Day. This will be up at the Office area around 12.00pm and we will be providing Christmas drinks and sausage sandwiches will be available for sale.

This year seems to have been very full of activities. Not only did we run our five Dressage days, two of them Official competitions held at Morisset showgrounds which were very popular, but we have also joined the Eventing world, and ran two very successful Eventing Training Days down at Hidden Valley in August and October.

This wonderful venue allows our members and friends to expand themselves into show jumping and cross country and experience eventing without the stress of a competition and with the assistance of instructors and course designers on site. Both days ended up with horses and riders enjoying a swim in the dam, see below our Vice President, Brett Warren in all his glory in the dam. (yes, he does have shorts on).



We have already put in our dates to the EA for our Dressage days next year, and we will also be running at least one if not two more Eventing training Days. We are very excited to announce that we will be holding the majority of our Dressage days at Morisset showground next year. We love the Cooranbong grounds but Morisset offers a bigger area with more facilities and as our Dressage entry numbers are expanding we feel we will be able to service our members better at the showgrounds. We will still be using the lovely Cooranbong grounds for some of our low key training days. Details and dates are on page 2.

As part of some new and exciting events we are organising we are also holding our first WEC hosted riding clinic. The 4 day clinic will be held at Wyee - 27-30 November 2014 with the well known riding master Vince Corvi. Riding places are already full, but there are still auditing places of \$10 for up to 3 hours or \$20 for a full day. All are welcome to come and enjoy watching this master at work.

In February we are planning a 'Training Sustainable Dressage' information evening in the Indoor arena at Wyee. This will be an exciting, unmounted information evening aimed at providing attendees with useful principals for training and riding a horse with correct movement biomechanically, to ensure the health and longevity of both the horse and rider. More details can be found further in this newsletter.

Thank you for joining us for this wonderful year, and we hope to see you all again next year. I'd also like to thank the committee for all their hard work this year, and I look forward to working with such a great bunch of people again next year. Happy Riding and we hope you have a safe and wonderful Christmas holiday.

Cheers... *Marg Abbott*

New Memberships due 1 January 2014

Watagan Equestrian Club memberships run from **1 January to 31 December** every year.

This means that all memberships expire this year and will need to be renewed early next year. Memberships are due on 1 January and for insurance reasons you must be a member of either our club, or Equestrian Australia (EA) to participate in any of our Dressage, Show jumping or Event days.

****New Membership structure for 2014****

At our yearly committee planning meeting in October it was decided that from 2015 the administration fee for Memberships will no longer apply and there will be just one flat fee of \$35 per year, per rider.

For your WEC membership you will receive:

- ☺ Discount entries to all of our Dressage, Eventing and Showjumping days
- ☺ Priority bookings for all our riders clinics and information evenings
- ☺ Advance notice by e-mail of all our activities
- ☺ Members only riding and training days
- ☺ Insurance cover at our days if you are not an EA member
- ☺ Discount advertising on our website page and free advertising on our Facebook page
- ☺ Invitations to social and special events
- ☺ Opportunity to compete in a friendly environment with a friendly, professional committee.
- ☺ The opportunity to contribute to and participate in Equestrian events in an enjoyable environment in your local area..

Dressage Pit Crew



WEC Calendar of events 2015

- * **Saturday 31 January** – Cooranbong Equestrian Grounds
Dressage Training Day – Closed Unrestricted
- * **Sunday 15 March** – Morisset Showground
Competitive/Closed Unrestricted Dressage Competition
- * **Sunday 24 May** – Morisset Showground
Dressage Training Day – Closed Unrestricted
- * **Sunday 2 August** – Morisset Showground
Dressage Training Day – Closed Unrestricted
- * **Sunday 27 September** – Morisset Showground
Official Competitive/Closed Unrestricted Dressage Competition
- * **Sunday 22 November** – Morisset Showground
Dressage Training Day – Closed Unrestricted



We also intend to hold two Showjumping days, probably in combination with the Dressage Training Days in March and May, but we are waiting on confirmation of showjumps. Plus we intend to hold 2 Eventing Training Days at Hidden Valley, dates will be confirmed soon.

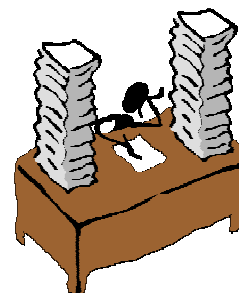
Note: Dates and Details are subject to change, please check the website for up to date information.

Good news for Helpers

I'm sure you've all seen the call at every Equestrian event 'Helpers needed', and we all understand that these events are put together by volunteer committees and people who give up their own time to create the events for riders to enjoy.

However it seems the riders who are supposed to help out on the day are finding more and more excuses not to.

Please bear in mind that all these competitions can only be run if the people who attend them help out either on the day, or with setting up and packing up. At WEC we only have a very small committee who already give up hours and hours of their time before and after events, and in 2015 we are encouraging all our committee members to participate at our events instead of forfeiting their own rides to work on the day as well.



So in 2015 we will be introducing a helpers levy for all our dressage entries. This will be \$10 per horse and will be included on your entry via Nominate. Those people who help on the day or provide someone in their place for a minimum of one hour will get their \$10 back. This will enable us to use the levy of the people who don't help on the day to pay for people that do.

If anyone helps for more than an hour they will be 'paid' \$10 an hour up to 8 hours. There are lots of jobs needing to be filled on the day such as pencilling, scoring, gear checking or the day before in setting up the arenas or show jumps. Riders will be given first choice to earn their levy back, but if the jobs aren't filled by the riders they will be offered to others such as local school kids, parents or any interested parties.

If you have a parent, friend or student who you think would like to earn some cash either on the day or the day before. please let us know so we can keep a list of contacts.

Vince Corvi clinic

***Vince Corvi – known by many as ‘the true master horseman’
is coming to the Central Coast!***

Recently Vince Corvi was awarded a merit of excellence from the Queen for equestrian coaching and we have him here at the Central Coast! What a great opportunity to learn from this great teacher.

Vince has been a highly successful riding coach and experienced horse trainer for many years. He is well known for his brilliant observation and coaching skills. His lessons are never boring and are always unique to the ability of the horse and rider.

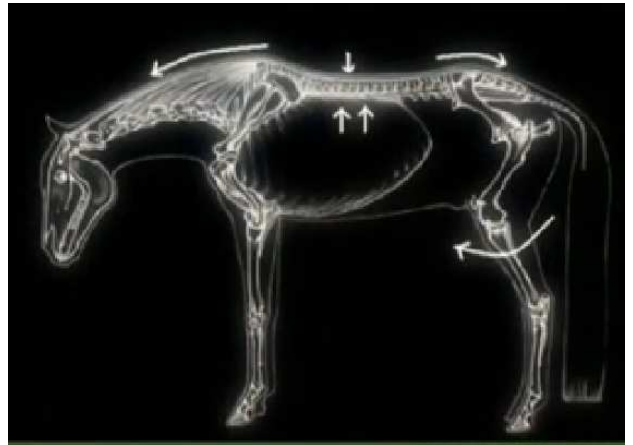
This 4 day clinic will be held at the Wyee indoor arena from Thursday 27 to Sunday 30 November 2014. There will be 45 minutes lessons over the 4 days from 9.00 – 5.00pm. The riding places are now filled, however this is a great opportunity to come and see and listen to this amazingly experienced horse trainer. Vince will always include and educate the 'fence sitters' without it interfering with the riders lesson. Auditors are welcome for \$10 for up to 3 hours or \$20 for the whole day.



Information Evening – Sustainable Dressage

Watagan Equestrian Club is hosting an Information Evening aimed at providing its members an interesting and educating evening on the principles of correct movement in the working performance horse.

Learn how training both on the ground and under saddle with lightness and correct self-carriage will extend the useful (and sound) working life of the horse, making dressage training harmonious and sustainable in the long run for both horse and rider.



The evening will include a presentation on anatomy and movement with correct self carriage and collection. It will include a demonstration with horses and riders in the indoor arena.

Guest presenters will be **Libby Sauer** and **Rochelle Lawson**.

Libby has been a qualified vet for 40 years with a specialty in equine pathology. It was during autopsies that she saw first hand the structure and functions of the inside of a horse and the wear and tear of incorrect training. Libby has been breeding, training and riding top quality horses for performance and show all her life and uses classical techniques and exercises to encourage straightness and lightness.

Rochelle is a certified Equine Body Worker specialising in preventative maintenance for dressage, performance and pleasure mounts. Doing body work on many horses she often feels the result of incorrect training, ill fitting saddles and postural compensations causing tight muscles, decreased range of motion, lack of suppleness and freedom of movement.

This evening will be a wonderful opportunity to learn more about your horse's body, and how to read the signs of discomfort or pain. It will also be extremely interesting for people just interested in the anatomy and movement of the horse, not just dressage riders.

Please bring your own fold up chair. We will have some available, but depending on numbers we may not have enough. You are welcome to stay afterwards for tea and coffee or drinks and discuss any issues or questions you may have with the presenters or any of the WEC committee.

Venue:

- * Greenacres Indoor arena, 66 Wyee Farms Road, Wyee
- * Saturday 28th February 2014 (to be confirmed)
- * 5pm – 7.30pm
- * Light snack provided at tea break

Cost:

\$20 for WEC members

\$26 for non WEC members

RSVP to reserve a place. Pay on the night.
enquiry@rochellelawson.com 0428 428 220

We'd love to see you there.



If you have anything you would like to add, or advertise in this newsletter, please e-mail Marg at wec@live.com.au