

MOOROOLBARK PONY CLUB NEWSLETTER

NEXT RALLY SUNDAY November 11th 2012
Gear Check: 9:45

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UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

<i>Set up for Derby</i>	<i>9th November</i>
<i>Mt Evelyn Twilight Showjumping Freshmans</i>	<i>9th November</i>
<i>Mooroolbark PC Derby (Saturday)</i>	<i>10th November</i>
<i>Mooroolbark PC Rally</i>	<i>11th November</i>
<i>Yarrambat Horse Trials NMZ</i>	<i>17th & 18th November</i>
<i>Mt Evelyn Combined Training</i>	<i>18th November</i>
<i>Monbulk Combined Training</i>	<i>18th November</i>
<i>Upper Yarra Showjumping Day</i>	<i>25th November</i>
<i>Mooroolbark Christmas Rally</i>	<i>2nd December</i>
<i>Mt Evelyn Twilight Showjumping Freshmans</i>	<i>7th December</i>
<i>NMZ State Dressage & Showjumping Qualifier</i>	<i>9th December</i>

Check the PCAV web site for entry forms, and more details on these, and other events.
www.ponyclubvic.org.au

Mooroolbark Pony Club

Duty Roster

October	Moore	Winter
November	Laukart	O'Neill
December		
2012 February	Savini	Whitfort
March	Rally at Yarra Glen	All members to help
April	Winter	Moore
May 6th	Harper	Wright
June 10th	Savini	Laukart
July 8th	Pepper	Vaughan
August 10th	O'Neill	Wright
September 9th	Breen	Howes
October 14th	Willand	Winter
November 11th	Savini	Moore

How Does The Duty Roster Work?

Canteen The duty families are to run the canteen all day, starting from 8:30 (winter) 7:30 (summer). There are instructions provided in the canteen area, and one of the canteen supervisors will be available at the start of the day to deliver food, get things going, and answer any questions. There is usually some time during the day for families to share staying inside, and being outside watching the rally, and they should roster this between themselves. It is usually "all hands on deck" just prior to and during the busy lunch period.

Outdoors Setup Duty families are responsible for setting up and packing up at the rally, and this means that one parent needs to be outside most of the day, starting from 8:30 (winter) 7:30 (summer). If there is more help needed during setup, the duty family should organise a call over the loud speaker for more help. There will usually be a supervisor available to provide direction (usually Jim or Roz).

Canteen end of day Duty families are responsible for the clean up of canteen, toilets and club rooms at the end of the day. Roster families also need to take home that day's garbage as we don't have a garbage collection at the club.

Outdoors Packup Duty families are responsible for organising the pack up of outdoors areas at the end of the rally day. However ALL FAMILIES are required to assist them. Stay in touch with instructors and with the DC to find out when rings can be packed up, and put announcements over the loud speaker to get other families involved if needed.

Changes to the roster?

As we no longer have a specific person organising the roster, it is YOUR responsibility to organise a swap if needed, and to let Wendy Wright know so she can change the information in the newsletter/web site. The information that we have published above is accurate to the best of our knowledge - if you don't tell us about changes, we won't know to make the change.

End of day pack up

The pack up of equipment in each ring/arena is to be done by ALL FAMILIES at the rally on the day.

If everyone pitches in, the ring pack up can be done very quickly - more hands make light work!

DC's Report - Nov 2012

Well the weather is improving finally; hope you are all getting lots of riding in with the help of daylight savings.

Christmas is almost upon us now so this will be our second last rally for the year – can you believe it! Our December rally this year will be incorporating the old “club championships” as well as the usual visit from Santa and some fun games after lunch so keep on the lookout for updates on this one. Don’t forget about the working bee / set up for the Derby on Friday, anyone who can lend an hour or two come on down, many hands make light work.



Speaking of the

Derby, hope you all have your entries in, it’s going to be a great day. We will leave everything set up for the rally the next day that way you can utilize the CC course two days running – Yay!

Congratulations to all the members out competing, great effort all round guys. Another achievement that doesn’t always get noted is our members on their new mounts whether they be the babies getting started or just a new “been there done that” new addition. I have seen a few babies over my time at the club flourish into very well balanced and educated safe

all round mounts, they are a credit to their riders and you should also be congratulated on that achievement. As for the riders with new mounts it’s not always an easy time getting to know each other but you have always got there in the end to have a fun enjoyable time with your furry friend, your perseverance and dedication is also to be commended.

Enjoy your ponies, they are all very special in their own way.

Roz





Sausage Sizzle

WOW What a busy day. Sounds like we couldn't cook the sausages quickly enough! Thankyou to all the people who helped on the day (100% turn up) and all those who helped behind the scenes getting set up for the

day. Special thanks to Karen Brooks for all her hard work and to Bakers Delight for their donation of bread.



Our profit for the day \$1790. FANTASTIC



LESSONS WITH NICKY

Nicky will be running lessons at PC on Saturday 3rd pm Saturday 17 pm & Tuesday 6th (Cup Day) am. She can be contacted on 0413 249 729. You **MUST** let her know if you plan to go.

October Rally

Lots of tidying up got done at the grounds this rally and we'd just like to send out a few **THANKYOU**s.

Janelle and John for chainsawing up the fallen tree...

Rob L. for being a super hard worker...

Jim and Janelle for building some new jumps...

Neil R, Stewart and Andy H for whipper snipping...

Any anyone else I've missed.



Mooroolbark Derby Day

10th November

Derby Day is upon us. If by any chance you haven't already entered, make sure you ring Lindy on 97221548 ASAP to get your entry in. The entry form is on our website. The times and dates for SET UP and DUTY ROSTER are below.

Cross Country Course Marking - Thursday 8th 11am – Jim and Julie (1 more helper welcome – call Jim if available). Bring a cordless drill.

Showjumping Ring Set Up – We really need all hands on deck for this one. We have two rings to set up & fence, one on the gravel and one on the grass. We will start at 3pm and continue into the evening. Hopefully those who can't come early can turn up a little later. Every family is expected to help out please.

At the same time there will be some preparations going on in the clubrooms and office so even if you are not able bodied enough to lift jump wings there will be other jobs on offer.

DUTY ROSTER SATURDAY 10TH

Following is the duty roster for Mooroolbark parents on the Derby Day. If you are unable to complete the duty that you've been assigned, please contact Julie Howes 97221920 or Lindy Whitfort on 9722 1548 to organise a swap. We do have a few duties where we are likely to be short of helpers, so if you have an extra parent or non-riding sibling available for any part of the day, please also let Julie or Lindy know.

Morning setup 7.30am	Andy Howes	Adrian Brooks
Car Park 7.30 Start	Stuart Moore	Tucker
Ring Supervisor & Assistant	Gear Check	Julie Howes
Jim's Assistant 7.30am	Kim Howes	
Gear Check 8.20 am	Fiona Vaughan	
First Aid	Ruth Romei, Stuart Moore, Gary Tucker	
Canteen		

N. Laukhart	Romei-(not available till 1.30pm)
Brooks	Smith
N. Willand	

Crash Crew & Ring Marshalls

AM 8.30 till 11.00	R. Laukhart, T. Whitfort
PM 11.00 till finish	Savini, K. Willand

Pencillers Di Moore

Cross Country Judges

Goss O'Neill Winter Savini Wright (not avail till 12.15) Romei-(not avail till 1.30pm)

Scoring Wendy Wright **Secretary** Lindy Whitfort

Any spare helpers on the day – including riders between their events – please let Jim or Julie know if you are able to offer to help in any way.

Entries are low due to our change of date and we anticipate finish time shortly after lunch.

WHAT IS A HORSE SICK Paddock?

Your horse's head is so big that he can't see what he's eating. Instead he relies on his excellent sense of smell to help him feed. Horses will not eat anything that smells of horse manure. If you leave manure on the ground few days then remove it, the horse can still smell it has been there and won't eat around that spot. They won't even eat hay that was cut from a manure filled paddock.

This is a survival instinct that in nature would reduce the chance of horses eating worm eggs. In the wild, the horse eats a bit, poos a bit then moves on, but when we confine him to a paddock he can't move on. Unfortunately his instincts still make him behave like he would in the wild and he won't eat anywhere near horse poo.

The grass around the manure grows long, whereas other patches will be grazed almost to the ground. To make the situation even worse, horses are very fussy eaters and won't eat a large number of "paddock weeds" eg dock, thistle and capeweed. These grow furiously, seed and spread.

Unlike many other grazing animals, horses have only one stomach (cows have three) and are not really very good at digesting grass. They need a lot more grass than a cow or a sheep to survive. The grass that is most easily digested and the yummiest is the fresh short regrowth on the grazing patches. This regrowth is high in sugars and to your horse this grass is like lollies whereas the long grass is more like vegetables. Your horse will keep grazing the yummy short regrowth over and over again, and ignoring the long grass around the poo patches. The short patches keep trying to grow but the horse nips them off as soon as they do and eventually the grass starts to die in these patches.

The end result is a messy looking paddock with big bare patches, lots of weeds and areas of tall uneaten grass. A beginner horse person looking at this paddock would think there's plenty to eat, but a more experienced horse owner knows that in reality, the paddock is actually eaten out. This paddock is described as "horse sick".



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION

There are a few strategies that help, but nothing fixes the problem entirely. Some suggestions:

- Instead of having one horse per paddock, put your horses in one paddock, let them live a more natural "herd" lifestyle, and have empty "resting" paddocks. Agriculturists recommend you rotate your horses into a paddock when the grass is 15cm long and out of a paddock when it they eat it down to 5cm (on the grazing patches). In reality, this is pretty much impossible on a small horse property, but it's nice to have something to aim for.



- When you rotate your horses out of a paddock, slash or mow the poo patches and harrow the paddock to spread the manure over the whole paddock. This fertilizes the paddock and spreads the "poo smell" out to make it harder for the horses to pick and choose the good patches from the bad when

they are rotated back in.

- If you can't rotate, or your paddocks are very small, pick up manure promptly, this will keep the poo patches small and leave more area for the grazing patches. Cut down the long patches and weeds to help keep weeds under control. Ensure free access to hay at all times (eg a round bale) to discourage horses from eating the grass out so badly that it dies. If possible, divide your paddock with electric tape and rest one side.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE FAT PONY WHO NEEDS TO BE IN THE JENNY CRAIG PADDOCK?

The best diet for a laminitis prone pony is one that is low in sugar. Remember that the fresh regrowth in an overgrazed paddock is very high in sugar. The very short paddock that looks like the perfect Jenny Craig paddock may, in fact, be feeding him lollies instead of vegetables. What he really needs is native grass (low in sugars) rather than sown pastures. The bush paddock is good for him (although not so good for the bush). Alternately you can offer him plenty of stalky

poor quality grass hay, whilst yarding him or keeping him on a dirt paddock with limited access to pasture. Allow him to graze 1-1½ hours in the morning after the dew disappears off the pasture before 10.00am, and again for 1-1½ hours after 4.00pm on sunny days. These are the times when the grass sugar content is lowest. A dirt paddock, called a "sacrifice paddock",

where your horse lives most of the time allows you to control what he eats. You can cut hay from other paddocks and feed him a steady diet of this year round.

Another option is a grazing muzzle. With this on you can let him out on the longer stalky grass with the other horses.

No matter how fat he is, do make sure that he is getting enough bulk to eat, to keep his digestive system working properly. A slow feeder hay net will help his hay last a bit longer. The best way to reduce the sugar content of hay is to soak the hay in double its volume of warm water in a big tub for 60 minutes, and then lift it out to drain for at least 15-30 minutes and to air dry before feeding it to your pony.

ALL SOUNDS A BIT TOO LABOUR INTENSIVE FOR YOU?

That's horses for you! If you think that's bad, try stabling them....



Our riders Out & About

Congratulations to all our riders who have been out and about recently.

Not everyone can place at every event, thanks to all those of you who send in news of your wins, placings and personal bests. If your name is not here, please don't be shy just send your details to Wendy or put them in the out & about book. Let us know the type of event you entered, the date, horse you were riding, and what class you rode in. AND LOTS OF PHOTOS! For personal bests - tell us what you were particularly pleased to have done on the day!



Mentone PC Horse trials – 22nd October 2012

The day started with plenty of wind and threatening rain, and although it stayed a bit windy, the sun managed to come out, making for a pleasant and mostly well-run day (well, they were running well, ahead of time, and with quick results until the all-important XC results, which took 2+ hours to come out for Grades 3 & 4!).

The wind added a bit of fun to the XC, with lots of horses baulking at the "shed" which, as well as being dark & gloomy, was flapping and echoing in the wind. It didn't stop **Chelsea Winter**, with **Gypsy** going straight through, and they finished the day 7th overall in their Grade 4 section after going double

clear on XC and SJ.

Tommy also didn't dare disobey **Jackie Wright's** insistence that he ignore any trepidation he might have about the shed, and their double clear XC/SJ saw them hold onto to their winning dressage score (yes, you read that right, and yes, we did go back a few times to make sure that we were not mistaken that

Tommy had won the dressage round!) to take out their first ever win – bagging a rug (that will wrap around him twice) for the Grade 3 Horse Trials win, and a nice trophy for the dressage.



After sitting in 2nd place after dressage & SJ, **Tetley** needed a little convincing that the shed was safe, and even with that refusal he and **Jackie** still managed a ribbon, finishing 6th overall in Grade 3.

A HUGE thanks to Michelle & Chelsea for taking Tommy down in their float - we're sure Tommy appreciated it – especially the chance to spend the hour with the lovely Gypsy!

Oaklands Horse Trials – 22nd October 2012

Lauren and **Sara-Jane** both went to Oaklands. Everybody had one stop on the cross country – (was it catching??) for final results – Gr 2 Sarah Jane on **Flynn** 6th, Lauren on **Kal** 7th and Gr 3 Lauren on **Leo** 12th. Not too bad given the large classes, still, nobody got their hands on one of those lovely red rugs. Maybe next year!



Nunawading Dressage and Combined Training - 28th October 2012

Lauren took **Leo** to Nuna CT and Dressage Day. Leo somehow managed a 1st in the Combined Training and a 2nd in the Dressage. I can only assume the judges were dazzled by his good looks as the first test was calm but not especially accurate and in his second test he shied every time he went past the rope wheel at "A" for no less than four "disobedience"s written in the comments. His show jumping was clear if a bit lazy.



Mountain District Dressage Day – 28th October 2012

Sarah Jane took **Flynn** to Mt District Dressage Day. Unfortunately he threw a shoe in his first test and they had to withdraw.



Croydon Show

Amy Tucker went to Croydon Show, which was **Henry's** first ever competition. As you can see an excellent haul of ribbons for a first outing.



The Stampede – 28 October 2012

On the 27th Oct, **Tess, Kate**, myself and my brother were part of team Mooroolbark Red Backs at The Stampede held at Wandin Park. The Stampede was a 5km or 10km obstacle course that took us around the Little Wandin cross country course and part of the big Wandin course with over 300 other people at a time. Our team chose to do the 5km course which involved us crawling, falling and flailing through huge pits of mud, jumping into dumpsters full of ice and water (SO painful!), and running through 'The bug Zapper' which were hundreds of 10,000 volt wires hanging from a frame. We also had to attempt to sliver over rows of barrels in the quarry in which we all ended up falling over in and getting completely saturated! Tess and Chris chose to take the course a little more casually by walking most of it while Kate and myself chose to run certain bits, except uphill where Kate collapsed a few times due to being tired haha. After we had finished it was onto the greatest battle of the day which was trying to untie shoe laces drenched in mud and trying to warm up because we were freeeezinggg. No one was too ashamed to strip off all their muddy gear down to their undies to get dry. We had a fantastic and we're already planning for next year's 10km event!

Chelsea





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In celebration of your 10 year
anniversary
And in appreciation of your
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