

Galloping Gossip.

July 2007

Hi there everyone and Welcome to this month's Galloping Gossip! We hope everyone has had a great month, and aren't doing too badly in this wet, cold weather.

From the Committee

This time of year we know how nasty the rain can be, although it is lovely that Melbourne is having all this rain, it can be a real safety hazard to horse riders! In the event that we have torrential rain between now and the rally day on Sunday, someone will be in contact with you via telephone on Saturday to tell you that the rally has been washed out. This has had to happen a few times in past years, but if you don't hear from anyone then assume that the rally is still running!

Thank you to everyone who bought Buckskin Jodhpurs from Jodie at the last rally! We hope you've been excited enough to tell your other horsey friends. They will be available for collection at the rally this weekend!

Hopefully some of you were able to go and watch the Melbourne International Three Day Event at Werribee during the month; it was a very exciting event and an inspiration to everyone who went along!

July Rally Helper Roster

Setup: Aiello, Speck, Davies, Seccull and Goldberg

Setup helpers are required to start at 9:30.

Gear Checkers: Livingstone, McCowen, Belt and Gartner

Gear checkers need to collect the folders from the clubroom at 9:45.

Packup: All families!

Whether or not it is raining, it will be cold and we'll all want to go!

Canteen: Wilson, Wright, Nicholson, Taylor

Please check at the canteen to see what time you are all needed.

DC: Ian Thomas

Cards: Stewart, Blackmore

There are no Dingley Birthdays to Celebrate in July!
(Please make sure I have your birthday!)

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Photo of the Month!



Foxy and Woody @ Cranbourne

Crushed Cans!

Please bring along all your crushed recyclable cans to the Dingley rally - they are a valuable source of money for the club!

We wish Nicole's horse Ellesmere Poppy a speedy recovery from her colic surgery on June 12th.
(More on Pages 3 & 4)

Riders Out and About

Congratulations to Jess Wright, Emily Aiello, Moraya Seccull and Catherine Bateman for coming 8th in the State Level Musical Ride held at Werribee Park on Saturday June 16th!!! They have put in a huge effort over the past months preparing for the event and they certainly delivered on the day...Nothing goes totally to plan though, Moraya and Catherine had a surprise collision in the middle of the routine, with Moraya's stirrup hooking Catherine's leg up over her saddle! Fortunately from where the judges sit you couldn't see the crash and neither of their horses missed a beat!



Foxy Gartner and Woody competed as the past C-grade Champions at the Cranbourne Pony Club's Winter Showjump Championship on Sunday June 17th. They were first to ride in the first event, Table AM7, where the completion of clear round of the tight jumping circuit meant going on to an immediate jump-off against the clock. They set the benchmark for the other 14 riders and their jump-off time was not beaten, giving them a first place in the first of three events.

The next event was Table AM3, over a long course of 12 jumps most of which had been set to the maximum 1.1m height, and included two doubles. Foxy and Woody knocked down part B of the first double and this put them in sixth place for this event. There was only one clear round of the 15 C-grade riders.

The final event was Table C, which means one fast round against the clock with 4 seconds time penalty added for each knockdown. Again they had one rail down, placing them fourth in this event. Upon adding up the points gained Foxy and Woody tied for first place, but had to settle for third on count-back because they took the placings for the second event as the tie-breaker. Even though the result didn't go their way, both Foxy and Woody had a very enjoyable day.



Also out and about on Sunday the 17th of June were Catherine Bateman and Leo and Casey Bastin and Bonnie at the Main Ridge ODE. Casey and Bonnie were having their first outing together, and despite a little bit of confusion resulting in an error of course in the dressage she had a great weekend. Following her dressage, Casey was unfortunately eliminated in the show jumping phase but went on to do the cross country for the experience. She had a couple of refusals on the cross country course but made it around none the less - a great effort for her first outing!!!

Catherine and Leo



Catherine and Leo were placed equal sixth after their dressage test, but a mistake in the Showjumping saw them almost miss the last fence and come away with 45 time penalties. This unfortunately dropped them to last place, but an excellent clear round cross country raised them back up to 13th place overall. Catherine was also able to accumulate seven points for the Tri Series One Day Events continuing with Langwarrin and Mentone over the next few months! Good Luck to Catherine and Leo, and well done!

On Sunday June 24th Monash Pony Club held their Combined Training and Dressage Day. Jess and James Thomas were both there as well as Marie Speck at her first competition! Despite a nasty frost at the start of the day, Jess in the Grade 3 with Tina had an enjoyable day with a clear round show jumping. An unfortunate error of course in her second dressage test for the day (she had taught James his test earlier and substituted it with her own by accident) was their only mistake!

James and Fudge had an extremely interesting day in the Grade 4! During their first dressage test for the morning, not only was Fudge eyeballing a group of nasty bicycles which were certain to come and get her at any minute, but was chased around the dressage arena by a German shepherd dog! The dog emerged from the trees nearby to the dressage arena just as James was doing a lovely 20m canter circle and proceeded to go straight for Fudge's heels! James got to practice his rodeo performance seat though and did an excellent job of staying on. Following this he was able to produce a clear show jumping round, and placed mid-field.

Marie and Indi in the grade 5 had a brilliant day at their first competition together! After a great dressage test they had one stop in the Showjumping but continued to go clear the rest of the round after some very persuasive riding from Marie! Marie and Indi also placed mid-field! Well done to Jess, James and Marie on a great day out!

Colic Surgery - A First Hand Account

From Nicole Stewart

Anyone who has had a horse come down with colic knows how scary it is - as horse owners it is not an issue of 'if' your horse gets colic...its something more along the lines of 'when' your horse gets colic. You can never be careful enough, and it comes on fast. On Sunday night, June 11th I had my most recent ride on my mare, Poppy. Monday morning she was fine when Angela, the lady who owns the agistment where Poppy lives, fed up. She went through her normal routine of digging at the gate and generally being a bit of a 'mare' until she was presented with food, then not coming up for air until it was finished. On Monday afternoon at about 2pm Ange found Poppy laying down in her paddock (strange already!) and panting as though she was going into labour. I was contacted immediately and arrangements were made for the vet to come and see her.

She had not been kicking at or watching her flanks, there were audible gut sounds and she was urinating and defecating normally when the vet arrived at about 4:30pm, but following a rectal examination he confirmed that there was a distention in the large colon that felt gassy. He administered mild pain relief, so as not to mask severe symptoms, but to

make her more comfortable and gave her a paraffin, electrolyte and water drench to encourage bowel movement and hydration.

We walked her and walked her and walked her, she enthusiastically picked at the grass a little, which the vet encouraged, but by 11:30pm the pain relief had worn off enough for the worst of her symptoms to come through. Poppy was throwing herself to the ground, grunting and getting up and finally, she was so exhausted, she fell to her side, closed her eyes and lay still. Colicky horses don't curl up like you usually see a horse lying; they lie flat out on their sides with their legs stretched. I wanted her to be monitored by someone who knew more about colic and horses than I do, so I floated Poppy to Narre Warren North Vet clinic where she was administered with more pain relief and another drench immediately. Following another rectal examination the same vet was able to tell us that the distention that he could previously feel was gone, that was good news.

That night I stayed over with Poppy at the vet, outside her stable on a camping bed. She dug and was up and down all night and I couldn't sleep so ended up reading to her out loud for most of the night until she settled down at about 5:30am. I fell asleep then and the vets started arriving just before 7:30. They re-examined that morning and were encouraged that her vital signs were all still normal (her heart rate, respiration rate, gum colour and temperature indicated a fit, healthy horse throughout the whole ordeal). They were ready to send her home that afternoon, but I was convinced that she was still not 100%, so having been examined by the head vet, Gary Stapleton, he performed a peritoneal or abdominal tap. Poppy was sedated and an incision made into her abdomen and a catheter inserted. This allowed a small amount of peritoneal fluid to drain out into a tube. The intestines, secum and stomach 'float' in the peritoneal fluid, and it should be a relatively thin, slightly yellow tinged liquid if the horse is healthy. Poppy's peritoneal fluid was thick and orange-stained with blood. Her gut was extremely compromised and we were told to decide then if we wanted to operate or to try to treat whatever the problem was with antibiotics.

At 3:50pm Poppy was sedated and taken into the operating theater. We were told that the success rate of colic surgery was relatively poor, and once they opened her they could find anything from a twisted gut to a bad cyst. Fortunately none of her gut came out blue when they opened her abdomen (indicating dead flesh) and they found an easily rectified intussusception in her small intestine. This means that part of her small intestine had telescoped inside itself, kind of like when you take off a sock and half of it goes into itself. As a result of the intussusception a bile duct had been blocked, as had the lymph and blood flow to the large intestine, and when we pulled out the large colon it was badly jaundiced. Amazingly, when the small intestine was unblocked everything started moving normally and the large intestine began recolouring before our eyes. I was lucky enough to be able to watch basically the entire surgery and was even able to be of some use, rocking Poppy back and forth while she was on her back to keep her circulation going. Poppy was the model patient, she was moved to the recovery box at 5:30pm and was on her feet by 6, slightly dazed at being in a padded box but content to play with the power cord hanging from the ceiling.



Poppy hasn't taken a single backwards step since her surgery. She had a checkup with the vets on Monday the 18th of June, and had her stitches out on Monday the 25th. Although rather annoyed with being stuck in a stable for a fortnight, she is now back in her paddock, free to gallivant and kick up her heels. She is also thoroughly enjoying her two month break and her enthusiastic antics give me constant reminders of what fun I'm going to have bringing her back into work. Aside from

being eternally grateful to the amazing team of vets and vet nurses who saved Poppy's life this event has reminded me that you can never know your horse too well. If I had taken Poppy home when I was allowed to on the second day she wouldn't be alive now. Although it's an extremely risky procedure, providing you have caught the colic early, I would recommend to anyone in such a bad situation to go ahead with the surgery. Even if I had lost my horse, I would know I had given her the best chance at life that I could have.

Up and Coming Events

Sunday July 29th - Langwarrin Pony Club One Day Event (Grades 5, 4 and 3 only)
Sunday August 19th - Chelsea PC CT and Dressage Day
Sunday August 26th - Seville PC Dressage Day
Sunday August 26th - Monash PC Showjumping Day
September 29th and 30th - Werribee PC Horse Trials

Just a further reminder to anyone planning on participating at the Werribee Pony Club Horse Trials, hopefully everyone has been able to join their e mailed newsletter list. If you haven't, and you want to participate in this year's Werribee event please visit www.werribeeponyclub.com and follow the links from the homepage. Entries for Werribee open next Friday, the 6th of July! Via their e mailed list Werribee Pony Club will provide an indication of what time they think the entries will open, and you'll need to be sitting up on the internet that evening waiting! Stabling and camping will be discussed at a Dingley rally soon.

From the Editor

Unfortunately I won't be able to make it to the July rally, so if there is anyone who needs to get in contact with me please do so via e mail or telephone!
Keep sending in your photos and stories, its great to hear from everyone during the month!

See you in August!

Nicole ☺

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