

# Galloping Gossip.

August 2007

## *From the Committee*

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the most recent Dingley PC fundraiser by purchasing wine from our wine drive. So far from the five orders we have accepted we have been able to raise \$470 for the club! Alias Wines, who we are ordering from, are happy for this arrangement to continue for as long as we would like it to. As a result we would like to encourage everyone to spread the word to your friends and family! Please note, anyone who wishes to pick their wines up at the rally this Sunday must have their orders in by Friday this week!

### Dingley Pony Club Apparel:

Sally Thomas will be taking orders at the August rally for Dingley Pony Club slickers and over pants! There will be plenty of sizes to try on before you order. Note that the slickers and over pants are not a compulsory part of the Dingley Uniform, however they are great to have at a competition or riding day! Slickers are the Dingley blue and yellow with 'DINGLEY PONY CLUB' on the back and the Dingley symbol over the right breast. Unfortunately Sal cannot take an order without the money, so please remember to bring along payment. Prices as follows:

Normal Slicker - \$71

Slicker with name embroidered on left breast - \$76

Over pants/trousers - \$26

Also presently on order are Dingley Pony Club saddle blankets. Much like the slickers and over pants the saddle blankets are not a compulsory part of the uniform. The blankets are an all purpose shape, in royal blue with a single line of gold piping around the outside. They also have the Dingley logo in one corner. These saddle blankets are made by Bruce Smith Saddler in Cranbourne and will be of excellent quality. Prices have not been finalized with Bruce Smith yet, but the saddle blankets should be ready by the September rally.

## *Welcome New Horses and Riders*

This month we welcome four new riders to our club!

- Meg and Torry Kaye, who turned 14 in July.
- Patrick Dyson, 12.
- Sarah Callant and her horse Meg, 16.

Happy Birthday to Isobelle Kelleway for the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August! Isobelle is turning 17 this year!

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### Photo of the Month!



### Flying Pony at the July Rally!

Please submit fun photos of your horse each month, and you might see him here!

### Crushed Cans!

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

Keep your eyes and ears open for information coming about our very own Combined Training Day, to be held at the Dingley grounds on September 16<sup>th</sup>!

We also welcome two new horses!

- Jess Thomas's Kangaroo Jack or 'Roo' is a 9 year old stock horse X thoroughbred. Roo is a 16.1 hh chestnut gelding who has previously competed extensively in show jumping, up to C grade EFA. He has also had a few pony club eventing starts. Although we won't see him at this rally, we wish Jess luck with building their new partnership and look forward to meeting Roo!
- Kelly Taylor's Billy is a 16 year old 16.2 hh thoroughbred chestnut gelding. He is also a show jumper and competed regularly over 1.2m and above with his old owner. Kelly and Billy have been enjoying their new found partnership, doing a little bit of everything together! We look forward to seeing Billy this weekend!

### *August Rally Helper Roster*

Look for your family's surname in the lists below to see weather or not you have been rostered to help out at the rally.

Gear Check - Belt, Hollowood, Speck and Seccull (B)

Set Up/Pack Up - Aiello, Nicholson, Taylor and Gartner

Canteen - Julie Wilson and Louise Wright and Steel and Dyson

Clubrooms and Toilet Cleaning - Goldberg and Harris

Maintenance - Seccull (M) and Cheeseman



James, Fudge and  
Danielle in July

### *HORSELAND DANDENONG HAS CHANGED LOCATION*

HorseLand in Dandenong, previously in the service lane off Princes Highway has changed address! They will be open in their new building from the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. Their new location is on the Parkmore Shopping Center side of the Scoresby Bridge, next to Total Tools.

HorseLand Dandenong  
14/189 Cheltenham Road  
Dandenong VIC



This tiny combination make  
light work of the Grade 5  
trakhener at the July rally!

## *Floating - Everything you need to Know*

This afternoon I was finally able to track down Mr. John Ristell, having played phone tag with John for the last three weeks or so I was excited to finally have him on the phone to answer some of my questions. John is the manager of the 4WD, AWD and Towing programs, as well as the Principal Trainer at Murcotts School for Driving Excellence and has been working in driver training since 1975. Previously the Instructor Trainer for the Victoria Police, John has worked with Murcotts for more than a decade and holds a whole host of qualifications which compliment his expertise in all types of motor vehicles, but particularly large vehicles. I have broken our interview down into categories so you don't have to read the whole lot if you don't want to, and have also included information about the Murcotts towing course.

### *Safety and the Law - The Towing Car*

Every car manufacturer states in their warranty paperwork the 'Recommended Towing Capacity' for a particular vehicle. This recommendation reflects the car's power, weight and quality of materials and build. However, the word recommended may lead people astray. It is not only 'unadvisable' to tow over your car's maximum capacity but is in fact illegal. Drivers of smaller cars towing floats generally break the law when they tow the two or so ton which make up a fully loaded horse float. Not only this, but they may also forfeit their insurance in the event of an accident. The insurer has the complete right to refuse a claim when the vehicle was not initially intended to tow the heavy weight of a horse float. Obviously, as a result of this, the heavier the towing car is, the better off you're going to be towing a float. The horse float has a very high centre of gravity, it is therefore also advisable to have a car which is slightly higher from the ground.

### *The Float - Breaks, Tyres and Centre Dividers*

Many people who tow horses are inclined to have the tire pressure slightly lower to give the horses in the float a more comfortable ride. It is in fact better to have the tires harder...at least 40psi, but John mentioned that he would like to say 46-48 psi. Although this may result in the horses not being a comfortable in the float, the whole rig is much safer as a result. The tyres grip the road better and handle more effectively when they are at a higher pressure, and truck tyres, not car tyres should be used on the float.

Hydraulic breaks vs electric breaks. John would always recommend electric breaks over hydraulic breaks, they are more effective, react to breaking pressure faster and are much safer as a result of these things. With hydraulic breaks you are actually waiting for the float to push the car before the breaking mechanism will be effective. As you can imagine this would be extremely dangerous going down a big hill. In contrast, drivers who's cars have electric breaks describe a feeling of being pulled from behind as the trailer's breaks kick in before the car's.

A centre divider should always be fixed so that the horse cannot move around, although this is not a legal issue, it certainly reduces the possibility of the float swaying behind the car as the horse moves.

### *Look Up & Stay Back - A guide to safe Towing Practices*

We are taught when we learn how to drive to leave 'Two Seconds' between the front of your car and the one in front of you. Determining the two second gap involves watching the car in front of you go past a fixed point, e.g. a power pole or tree and counting how long it takes until the front of your car passes the same point. John advised me that while you cannot put a fixed number on the distance you should stay back from the car in front when you're towing, it is at least double the distance required to stop when there is no load on the car.

Aside from staying well back from the car in front, remember that the horse in the back doesn't know what is about to happen. When cornering and going around roundabouts we need to take this into account and compensate by slowing down well before the event, not breaking through the turn and accelerating gently out of the corner.

Murcotts towing day course costs around \$330 and is conducted at the Sandown Raceway in Springvale. They will cover not only the topics that I have briefly mentioned for you but such things as correct couplings, hitches and tow bars, trailer reversing and suspension. Participants are required to provide a trailer of some sort and their towing car. For more information on Murcotts School for Driving Excellence, or to make a booking for their towing course visit [www.murcotts.com.au](http://www.murcotts.com.au) or telephone 1300 555 576.

### ***Dingley Pony Club Combined Training Day***

This year, Dingley is holding our annual combined training day on Sunday the 16<sup>th</sup> of September. Always a fun day, it goes without saying that there is a lot of work to be done. If you are a young or new member and do not think that you will be ready to compete by September, you can still be involved in the day in a big way! Keep your ears open at the next two rallies and keep reading your newsletter for updates on the CTD. If you are ready to compete but have not been graded then you need to put in an application to be graded to the DC at this rally! To do this, fill out a form which is available at the club and have your instructor, your parents or guardians and the DC sign the form. You'll then be given a dressage test to learn and practice at home before the September rally.



James and Fudge at the  
2006 Dingley CTD

Although this is our own club, you can't forget that you still need to enter the competition as you do any other. The earlier you get your entry form in the better; however we cannot take your entry without money. It is \$30 to enter the combined training day, and it would be *fantastic* if we could get everyone to bring along their completed forms and money this weekend.

### ***For Sale!***

#### **Rowville Double Horse Float For Sale**

Needs work - however is still being used (safe floor, electrics etc) but has a fair amount of rust and needs a new window. Has one door (new but not painted) and extra height. Movable high set centre divider with optional chains behind. Could be done up to be resold or used. Is currently registered till April 2008 (we think).

All reasonable offers considered.

Photos are available via e mail, contact Kate Pollock at [kjpoll@yahoo.com](mailto:kjpoll@yahoo.com).

#### **Evening Tempest**

Anglo Arab mare, 11yo, 15hh. She has attended PC for numerous years & has competed successfully from limited outings. She always does a lovely, even dressage test & is honest

both cross country & show jumping. She would suit a competent rider with experience. This is a regretful sale as rider has outgrown. For sale - all tack & rugs negotiable in price.

\$4,500

Call Kate Huglin on 8790 4192 or  
0400 639 616 - Narre Warren East



## *Riders Out and About*

On Sunday July 8<sup>th</sup> Maddie, Bonnie and Catherine took their horses to the Peninsula Adult Rider's Dressage training day. Catherine and Leo had a slight disagreement in the morning, leaving Catherine with a jarred back, but despite this they went on to produce two lovely tests and come third overall in their section. Unfortunately Bonnie did not place, having had some mishaps of her own riding Indi. Indi reared before her salute in her first test, then proceeded to duck out of the arena, eliminating Bonnie from that test. Her second test however, was much better.

Maddie was out for the first time riding Pixy and also came third in her section, riding two lovely uncomplicated tests! Congratulations to all three girls!

Congratulations to Moraya who on Sunday July 22<sup>nd</sup> went out to the Mentone Pony Club CTD and won her class in the grade 4! Belinda and Gus were also competing at Mentone, and produced the excellent result of 4<sup>th</sup> in the grade 3! Big congratulations to both girls!

Also out and about on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July was Maddie Steel. Maddie competed at the Ringwood Pony Club Showjumping Day in the E Grade. Congratulations to Maddie who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the AM7 on the day!!



On Sunday July the 29<sup>th</sup> we had a group of riders from Dingley head out to the Langwarring Pony Club ODE. In the Grade 4 Jess Wright and Smarty produced a lovely dressage test, were able to go around part of the cross country and made it to the last fence in the show jumping! Also in the Grade 4 was James Thomas riding Fudge. James was 13<sup>th</sup> after the dressage, and also went clear cross country. Unfortunately

he crossed his tracks in the show jumping and did not place. Another rider in the grade 4 was Catherine Bateman riding Leo. They produced two clear rounds for show jumping and cross country! Well done! Cassie was also riding in grade 4. Unfortunately she was eliminated at the last jump in the cross country, a ditch which proved to be extremely troublesome for many riders. Maddie, riding Pixy produced two clear rounds for Showjumping and cross country,



having better luck than poor Bonny, who's pony Indi pulled up lame with a suspected stone bruise and she had to scratch.



In the Grade 3 we had Jess Thomas and Tina, looking great here through the water jump. They had a good dressage test and a clear cross country round. Unfortunately they ticked a rail in the Showjumping, giving them 4 penalties and placing them 9<sup>th</sup>. Jess and James both spent two days during their school holidays polishing their cross country skills at the annual Pakenham Pony Club cross country clinic. The clinic was run by some well known coaches such as Will Enzinger and Amanda Howell. Their hard work has obviously paid off - congratulations to them both!

Leave the horse at home!

Let's get together and have some fun...

# *Dingley Pony Club*

*Invites you to a*

*fun and relaxing afternoon; to welcome new members,  
catch up with old friends and to enjoy a display of  
stunning jewellery by 'Just Sassy'.*

*When:* Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August - 3:00pm until 6:00pm

*Where:* 35 Barrani Street, East Bentleigh

*All members are welcome; riders, instructors, grooms and  
transport personnel!*

**Please bring a plate to share!**

Tea, coffee, hot chocolate & marshmallows and soft drinks provided.

Kate from 'Just Sassy' will be available to take your jewellery orders and she will be donating a % of all sales to our club.

RSVP Sally or Dianne at August Rally,  
or phone 9570-1196 or 9589-5628 and leave a message.

### *Up and Coming Events*

This is a great time of year for Pony Club riders, the season is starting to get back into gear following winter, so there are plenty of events to go to regardless of what your level or discipline is!

Sunday August 19<sup>th</sup> - Chelsea Pony Club Dressage and CTD

Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> - Seville PC Dressage Day

Sunday August 26<sup>th</sup> - Monash PC Show Jumping Day

Sunday September 9<sup>th</sup> - Kingston CTD and Dressage Day

Sunday September 16<sup>th</sup> - Dingley Pony Club CTD

September 29<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> - Werribee Pony Club Horse Trials

### *From the Editor*

I hope this huge issue hasn't taken everyone too long to read! There's a lot going on at this time of year, so please keep reading your newsletter. If you have any suggestions then don't hesitate to talk to me at the rally or to e mail me or phone me during the month!

See you all on Sunday!!

☺ Nicole

nicole-stewart@hotmail.com

0400-010-071