



# Whip Around



June 2023

*A Publication of the NSW Branch of the ACDS Inc*

[www.carriagedrivingnsw.org.au](http://www.carriagedrivingnsw.org.au)

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Some of the vast array of vehicles at the Ashwood Hackney Stud Dispersal Sale at Murrurundi on May 27 2023 (S White)

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT 'WHIP AROUND' August 24 2023**

## NSW ACDS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

*Club Secretaries* : To avoid significant clashes, always submit proposed calendar dates to the NSW Calendar Coordinator for checking – Tracey Ellis [scribblegum64@gmail.com](mailto:scribblegum64@gmail.com) or ph 0402 854 696

*When proposing an event please liaise with the relevant Convenor/Coordinator  
(CDE, Show Driving, Dressage, Pleasure/Endurance, Young Driver)*

*If you have an event to be added, postponed or cancelled for the NSW Calendar here or on the state website, please contact the Calendar Coordinator Tracey Ellis via email or a phone call.*

*\*\*\*\* Don't expect anything to be noticed on social media \*\*\*\**

<b>June</b>		
3	Federal ACDS AGM by Zoom	Tom Dowling 0428 957 052
10-11	Dressage and Cones Weekend at Stroud Showground Hunter Club	Rosemary Laing 0408 562 257
10-11	Indoor/Outdoor Event at Moonbi Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
24	Graded Dressage Day Hawkesbury Showground Hawkesbury Club	Kim Schumacher 0433 777 763
25	Annual Winter Gymkhana at Rossmore Reserve Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 9606 6085
25	Social Drive venue TBC Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
<b>July</b>		
6-10	Phil Marshall Clinic at Bundanoon Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 0497 603 424
8-9	Graded Dressage Day at Gunnedah Showground Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
15-17	Phil Marshall Clinic at Greta Hunter Club	Margie Walmsley 0434 014 952
19	NSW Branch ACDS AGM by Zoom	John Tonkiss 0409 669 271
22-23	Show Judges Clinic at Manilla Showground Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
23	Small Arena Day at Rossmore Reserve Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 9606 6085
30	Pleasure Drive at Camden Camden Club	Lou Lyons 0497 603 424
<b>Aug</b>		
1-2	Mid Week Camp Out at Cherie Mason's Hip Camp Hunter Club	Rosemary Laing 0408 562 257
8-11	Certius Training Clinic at Bundanoon Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 0497 603 424
12-13	Certius Ashes Competition at Bundanoon Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 0497 603 424
13	Training Day/Lessons with Mary Grant at Rossmore Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 9606 6085
19-20	L3 CDE at Moonbi Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
26-27	Mini Marathon Campover at Wisemans Ferry Hawkesbury Club	Kim Schumacher 0433 777 763
27	Come and Try Day at Stroud Showground Hunter Club	Margie Walmsley 0438 014 952
<b>Sept</b>		
2-3	Graded Dressage at Sebastopol Temora Club	Kerrie Rosetta 0428 414 518
9-10	Three Phase Rosymoon Cup at Sbastopol Temora Club	Kerrie Rosetta 0428 414 518
9-16	Liverpool Range Club Annual Drive at Manilla	Peter Honeyman 0438 741 140
10	Dressage Cones and Mini Marathon Day at Rossmore Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 9606 6085
14-18	Phil Marshall Clinic at Bundanoon Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 0497 603 424
16-17	Level 4 CDE at Murrumbidgee Club	Robyn Schmetzer 0458 552 331
16-17	Regional Show Driving Championships & Cones Spectacular at Gunnedah Showground Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
23-24	Show Driving Accreditation & School at Bundanoon SD Panel	Carolyn Blakeley 0438 458 298
24	Cones Spectacular at Rossmore Camden Club	Sally Crowell 0412 404 606
<b>Oct</b>		
7-8	NSW Dressage Championships Carbery Estate Mullengandra Border Club	Miriam Bentley 0427 204 205
8	Non Competition / Coaching Day at Rossmore Reserve Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 9606 6085
8	Social Drive at Limbri Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
21-22	Level 3 CDE at Bundanoon Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 0497 603 424
29	Show Driving & Cones Hawkesbury S/ground Hawkesbury Club	Kim Schumacher 0433 777 763
<b>Nov</b>		
4-5	NSW CDE Championships at Gundagai Showground Joint Clubs	Tracey Ellis 0402 854 696
9-13	Phil Marshall Clinic at Bundanoon Southern Highlands Club	Yvonne Wood 0497 603 424
12	Long Reining / Refresher Day at Rossmore Reserve Hills Club	Janet Muspratt 9606 6085
12	Max Saunders Memorial Event at Moonbi Tamworth Club	Liz O'Brien 0427 766 726
19	Activity Day venue TBC Camden Club	Lou Lyons 0417 684 508
19	NSW Show Driving Championships at Hawkesbury S/ground NSW SD Panel	Carolyn Blakeley 0438 458 298
<b>Dec</b>		
2-3	Level 2 CDE Battle of the Border Mullengandra Border Club	Lorraine Cairns 0448 888 718
9-10	Indoor Obsthon / Pleasure Drive Reedy Creek Club	Steve Kearns 0448 859 598

<b>Mar</b>	<b>2024</b>	
2-3	Harness Spectacular at Temora Showground Temora Club	Kerrie Rosetta 0428 414 518
16-17	Level 3 CDE Joe Hawkins Cup at Marrar Riverina Club	Mal Welsh 0459 903 760
<b>April</b>		
13-14	Level 3 CDE at Murrami Murrumbidgee Club	Robyn Schmetzer 0458 552 331

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### **MESSAGE FROM THE NSW CDE CONVENOR Tracey Ellis**

As NSW CDE Convenor I would like to give my heartfelt thanks to the Ellmore Club for hosting the 2023 Australian Combined Driving Championships on behalf of the ACDS.

This was the 50<sup>th</sup> CDE Australian Championships held for the society and very fitting that the venue was just up the road from where it all began at the Dwyer property known as Ellmore back in 1972, where the first Rothmans National Harness event was held. It included a show, turnout, period, an 8km marathon and an obstacle driving test, then known as 3 Phase Driving. This has since evolved into the combined driving event as we know it today.

For the 2023 event, the drive and determination of Graeme and Debbie Dowling is beyond belief. Their positivity just overflowed into every part of the preparation, and with the knowledge and event experience of Brendan Dwyer at the helm, Chuckie Radnedge putting the event out to the masses, and the offers from many, many other members along the way to bring the event to life, it was something to be proud of. To top it off further was the help and assistance, without any hesitation, given by a number of other clubs.

An amazing army of officials and helpers allowed the success of this event to unfold into something special, even when Mother Nature made her presence felt over the weekend, just to make sure we knew who was really in charge.

Carriage driving is in good hands in NSW, thank you to everyone involved, take care, look after each other and keep doing what we do well.

### **CLUB NEWS**

#### **Ellmore Driving Club**

Penny Jacobs: I have been busy with new Welsh A pony and we made our debut at Boorowa Show on March 4 2023. He is really a grandchild project but is fun to drive and keep him exercised. There were 12 harness horses at Boorowa which was great, and it was a really nice day.



Brendan Dwyer, Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley, Graeme Dowling and Penny Jacobs on the Mothers Day drive at Boorowa (ph D Dowling)

Cazzie Hedge: On Mothers Day Ellmore Club had a fun day to try out the obstacles at Boorowa. The drivers included Brendan Dwyer, Graeme Dowling, Penny Jacobs and Carolyn and Amanda Blakeley, whilst Heidi Stevens, Heather Oxenham and Debbie Dowling were also part of the group.

After driving, everyone enjoyed a picnic lunch under the shady trees.

Graeme Dowling is working on some new ponies and hopes to be putting them in the sulky soon, with Brendan Dwyer's help.

May and June have seen my ponies Pip and Licorice at shows at Tamworth, Bathurst, Yeoval, Orange and Merriwa. Pip the grand dame takes it all in her stride and Licorice the new boy has behaved brilliantly. Both have won both ribbons and hearts. Licorice won his first garland at Merriwa making us so proud of the little man. We are eagerly looking forward to the Zilco Ashes at Bundanoon in August, and lots more happy days driving in the Spring.

Bonnie, my apprentice carriage dog has clocked up 75km in her training. She accompanied Kath Cole and me on two pleasure drives at Boorowa, and was with me on the Park Drive to the Retirement Village and through the streets of Boorowa on Easter Monday.



Cazzie Hedge driving Pip, with Bonnie in the basket, on the Boorowa Park Drive (L Mace)

She was also my assistant as a sheep controller on the Marathon course, as well as a bed warmer at night. Since then she has made many friends at horse events around the Central West.

### Hills District Harness Club

Janet Muspratt: The Hills Club held its Safari Drive and Cones Games Day on Sunday May 28 2023 at Rossmore Reserve. As the weekend was a busy one with other events such as the Ashwood Dispersal Sale at Murrurundi, a Hunter Club day at Stroud and the Phil Marshall Clinic at Bundanoon, driving numbers at Rossmore were reduced. However Karen Silvester and Ziggy, Debra Mavin

with Midnight and Andrea Casper with Caesar all thoroughly enjoyed the day. Also there, were Andrew Mavin with Staffy terrier Roxy, Eddie Dobbin, Dennis Casper and myself.



Andrea Casper with Caesar and Debra Mavin with Midnight at the Hills Safari and Cones Games Day (J Muspratt)

For the Safari Drive, I went to the frosty grounds early in the morning to 'let out' the animals - an assortment of small toys, amongst the trees and shrubs and beside fence lines. Drivers were instructed to observe the 18 animals and could photograph them, write them down or just rely on memory to report what they had seen after about half an hour of searching. The animals were a lion, a tiger, two bears, a zebra, a dingo, a koala, a panda, a fox, a pelican, a dog, a Pooh Bear, a frog, a rabbit, a chicken, a sheep, a cow and a horse.



Karen Silvester and Ziggy at the Safari and Cones Games Day at Rossmore (J Muspratt)

The drivers were also instructed to find evidence of 'poachers' and something for a rainy day. These were in fact a (rat) trap and an umbrella. Though the drivers appeared to search very carefully, some animals remained hidden. Indeed when I went out to collect them afterwards, I had trouble finding a couple of them! Karen Silvester, with little travelling companions - miniature Schnauzers Betty and Barney snug in a basket in

the sulky, turned out to be the best 'game hunter', finding 16 of the 20 items. Andrea and Debra were not far behind. For the winner – a large bar of chocolate and for the placegetters - Freddo Frogs. After the Safari all three drivers had a few goes at the 10 gate cones course and a cones maze. The latter certainly had them baffled for a while. It was then time to gather together for the sausage sizzle lunch prepared by Dennis Casper. Everyone felt it had been a great stress-free pleasure driving day.

### **Tamworth Regional Horse Drawn Club**

Elizabeth O'Brien: What a fantastic weekend at our Harness Boot Camp. Everyone enjoyed their personalised lessons. It makes a huge difference when the instructor is focused solely on you and your horse.

At the end of the first day we had one of the best BBQ you could have, with our sincere thanks to Yvette and Ian Furner. It was topped off with some incredible Pecan pie made by Margaret Walmsley and awesome rolled pavlova from the Manilla Bakery. The instructors were presented with thank you gifts, and on behalf of the instructors Ty Nicholls said a few complimentary words of encouragement and was looking forward to seeing the drivers out on the arena next day. We also held a Mega Raffle with one person taking home all the prizes and that lucky winner was Amanda Kettlestring. Congratulations Amanda! We hope you enjoy everything you won.

Sunday saw everyone up and about early, eager to get into their lessons again, soaking up all they could. With all the positive feedback we have received, Boot Camp will be back next year.



Jocelyn Cockbain and Ruby with trophies won at the Golden Plough at Dubbo (J Jenning)

Congratulations to our club member Jocelyn Cockbain and her heavy horse Ruby for their recent success at the Golden Plough held on the

outskirts of Dubbo. Jocelyn was 1st in the Ladies Plough, 1st in the Log Obstacle, 3rd in the Long Rein and winner of the Overall Champion Horse and Handler.

We celebrated Mothers Day by enjoying our wonderful Somerton Pleasure Drive. With the sun shining bright, a light breeze, good friends, and the best horses/ponies anyone would want, we headed out from Somerton Hotel with 13 drivers, horses of all shapes and sizes and 7 grooms/passengers. We drove along some lovely quiet country roads with friendly passers by waving and saying hi. A big thank you must go to John O'Brien for driving our escort vehicle and making sure we were all safe along our journey.

We returned to the Somerton Hotel after a leisurely 12km drive and were welcomed by both staff and customers. A photo shoot was then held in front of the hotel.

After unharnessing and taking care of our equines we were treated to a wonderful lunch under the shady gum trees that surround the hotel. A huge thank you to the Somerton Hotel for allowing us to use their facilities and being so welcoming.

### **Gulgong Heritage Harness Association**

John Hetherington: The Armatree Drive was held from May 13-20 2023. Ten Drivers turned out for this year's drive. There were three last minute pull-outs. People turned up Friday and Saturday ready to start driving on Monday.



Sam Williams on the Armatree Drive (P Honeyman) Leroy Trengove, John McKee, Peter and Trish Honeyman, Kate Wilson, Trina Mizzi, Sam Williams, Allen Smith, Mark Murphy, Damon Allport and John Hetherington were the drivers with Janet Hetherington as volunteer escort driver. Day one (Monday) was out and back 34 km. Lunch stop at 17km on an ant nest. Day two (Tuesday) around the block, lunch stop at 22 km. Total for the day 44 km. Day three (Wednesday) 28km. Stopped and looked at a shearing shed built

in 1899. Met one old fellow whose first job from school, at 14 years old, was working at the shed as the billy boiler for 30 shillings a week. Day four (Thursday) was straight up and back with a lunch break at 23 km. Total for the day was 47 km. Day five (Friday) three drivers went home and the rest of us drove 40 km with a lunch stop at a farmhouse at 20 km. Thursday night we all had a meal together at the pub to round things off before the three drivers left.



Armatree Drive lunch break (P Honeyman)

Great weather, great bunch of drivers and the escort carried our water and anything the drivers wanted carried. Where to next year, who knows. One good thing about this year the roads were perfect to drive on and cars and trucks were very accommodating.

Carol Hardaker: The next Club event will be at the Gulgong Showground on June 17 2023. It will probably involve cones and obstacles, depending on what the participants would like.

### Camden Harness Club

Charlotte Hyles: Camden Harness Club members and volunteers hosted their first Graded Driven Dressage Qualifier on Saturday May 20 2023. Camden's Bicentennial Equestrian Park looked beautiful in the 20°C sunshine which made for the perfect photo backdrop. The arena was set up on what is a flood plain and drivers appreciated its flat surface.

A big thank you must go to our judges and pencilers, Sue Plath, John and Jennifer White, Kim Schumacher and Shannon Toomey. It was such a treat to have three judges who gave drivers expert feed-back.

Five Preliminary tests, five Novice tests, one Elementary test and one Intermediate test were done. All went well.

Carol Fitzpatrick designed and judged a challenging cones course. The best score went to Rachael Taylor driving Carlyle Spartan. She

received a Horseland water bottle plus a bag of carrots for her second placed driving pony, Flash. We retired to the Polocrosse Pavilion for our sausage sizzle lunch. Many thanks to Luddenham butcher T W Roots, who generously sponsored us with the yummy sausages.



Rachael Taylor with Carlyle Spartan at the Camden Club Dressage Day (L Lyons)

Dressage scores and papers were quickly handed out. The highest percentage dressage score of 67.9% was achieved by Kathy Brammall driving her beautiful grey Welsh pony mare Gwenalun Manhattan (Milly), earning her a voucher sponsored by Camden Harness Club.

Sandra Shaw driving Serendipity H, was given the Encouragement Award, which was a voucher from another generous sponsor Camden Machinery and Tractors.



Jennifer Conquest driving Hope Park Gentleman Jack at the Camden Club Dressage Day (L Lyons)

The Camden Club likes the idea of useful prizes instead of ribbons. Therefore, every 1<sup>st</sup> place getter received a quality bale of lucerne hay sponsored by Martin Hodge of Camden Park Hay. 2<sup>nd</sup> place getters received a hay bag sponsored by Horseland Narellan and 3<sup>rd</sup> place getters received bags of carrots donated by Suzi Hodge. Many thanks to our wonderful sponsors.

Danni Katon: The Club held a pleasure drive at the beautiful grounds of Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park on April 23 2023. The drivers on

the day were Carol Fitzpatrick, Danni Katon, Louise Lyons and Sally Crowell from Camden Club and Debra Mavin from Hills Club. After a lovely drive around the park, we all had a cuppa and some morning tea and a great chat. It was a very pleasant morning enjoyed by all.



Greg McDonald with Glencoe Fingal at the Camden Club Dressage Day (L Lyons)

On Anzac Day, members went for another drive at the Equestrian Park. Charlotte Hyles, Carol Fitzpatrick, Louise Lyons, Sally Crowell and Danni Katon were the drivers and were able to watch the Anzac Day ceremonies happening in Onslow Park adjacent to the park. The parade was spectacular albeit a bit loud for some of the ponies, but all in all they were well behaved for most of the time! When the last post was played, we lined up and fell silent to pay our respects to those who gave their lives so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today.

In exciting news, three of our members have been fortunate enough to purchase new vehicles from Ross Carbery! Greg Macdonald, Danni Katon and Louise Lyons are now the proud owners of three beautiful 4 wheel carriages, and their horses and ponies are certainly enjoying the smoother ride.

### Temora Carriage Club

Kerrie Rosetta: Temora Club had a fun day at the Rosetta farm at Sebastopol on May 14 2023, followed by a barbeque lunch. Those who drove were Bruce and Liz Hammond, Ben Rosetta, Nicole Barry and Col Adler and his grand daughter Amy. As it was Mothers Day, a few members were unable to attend. Annika, a German visitor to the Rosetta farm, took photos.



Ben Rosetta, Bruce and Liz Hammond, Nicole Barry and Col Adler and groom granddaughter Amy at the Rosetta farm (ph Annika)

### Southern Highlands Carriage Club

Yvonne Wood: Planning is running at full speed for our "Zilco Ashes" Event with the U.K., to be conducted at the Club grounds in Bundanoon from August 8-13 2023. Entry Schedules and a very comprehensive explanation of the whole Competition will go out early in June.

Recently the Southern Highlands Club provided a static display of historic vehicles together with carriage rides, for the Sydney Regency Group, with such being held at Golden Vale Homestead, a National Trust property at Sutton Forest in the Southern Highlands, not far from Bundanoon. We had several historic vehicles belonging to Southern Highlands Club members, together with beautiful harness on display, as well as a horse drawn lawn mower owned by the Homestead.



Gail Bain and groom Barry Topple with Michael taking some Regency Group guests for a drive at Golden Vale Homestead (D Phelan)

Gail Bain's 'Michael' consented to giving some of the Regency Group invited guests a carriage ride, and Danita Phelan's 'Mon' was going to mow the property's lawn, but due to the extremely nasty

weather we decided it would be safer for 'Mon' to do the lawn mowing on another day.

The Regency Group people were adorned in all their finery of the Regency period, so it was a site to behold of years gone by, with many photographs being taken of them beside the static display vehicles, and on their carriage rides.



Danita Phelan with Mon demonstrating the horse drawn mower at Golden Vale Homestead (D Phelan)

We were told that all the rides and displays were an absolute highlight of the day, with many of the guests having travelled from far and wide including interstate to enjoy the three day weekend of all things Regency.

This included Maypole Dancing, with instructions, which managed to keep everyone holding the correct ribbon, thus producing a pattern at the top of the Maypole, then doing the reverse with the ribbon unwinding in an orderly fashion. This signalled the end of the dance, with much bowing and curtsying and acclamation for a job well done. Those of our Club who were watching decided it was no mean feat to perform this dance exercise. It could even be harder than remembering your dressage test!

The Southern Highlands Club has another Phil Marshall Coaching Clinic currently on the go, with one day down and four to go, providing fifty-one lessons for the twenty-one participants over the five days.



Kirstin Feddersen with Zeus at the Phil Marshall Clinic at Bundanoon (D Katon)

Everyone goes home having learned some valuable lessons to improve their driving. This also helps them to be more aware of horse welfare, and how to make sure their horse is comfortable in his harness, thereby making him more willing to work and happily perform the tasks asked of him. Phil will be back at Bundanoon in July and September, and the participant list is already quite long, so if you are thinking about taking part, please make contact with Yvonne – [woodsies2@bigpond.com](mailto:woodsies2@bigpond.com) - as early as you can, as spaces fill very quickly. The Application Form for the July Clinic will be distributed in the near future.

We are eagerly awaiting the commencement of work on our Outdoor Multi Discipline Arena Surface. This should happen in the next couple of weeks, so will be finished in time for the Zilco Ashes Event. It is a project that has been a long time in the making!

### Liverpool Range Harness Club

Peter Honeyman: Our first club drive for the year, set for March 17-19 at Somerton was cancelled due to hot weather. The April drive was able to be held and was at The Dip, Breeza on April 22-24, hosted by Kate Wilson. The report will be in the next issue.

The Gulgong Club held its annual one week drive at Armatree on May 13-20 2023. Six Liverpool Range members attended - Mark Murphy, John McKee, Kate Wilson, Trina Mizzi, and Trish and Pete Honeyman.



John McKee waiting for other sulkies on the Armatree Drive (P Honeyman)

The other drivers were Damon Allport and Allan Smith from Reedy Creek Club and Gulgong Club members Sam Williams, Leroy Trengove, and John and Janet Hetherington.

We all camped in the paddock behind the Pub, using the pub toilets and shower as well as other advantages!! We were blessed with good weather, no frosts and great drives organised by John

Hetherington and his wife Janet, who drove the escort water vehicle with assistance from Trish Honeyman. We had a lunch break each day except for the day we drove the 28km return trip to Bullagreen Woolshed. Monday was a 34km drive, Tuesday was 44km. Wednesday was the drive to Bullagreen Woolshed, which was built by the Diggs family in 1899. Thursday was a 48km drive and Friday a 40km drive. A total of 194km was driven over the five days with ten sulkies in attendance.



Trina Mizzi on the Armatree Drive (P Honeyman) On Thursday night we all had dinner at the Pub. There was happy hour every afternoon, plus campfires to sit around, a good venue and good company. It doesn't get much better! Thanks John & Janet and the Gulgong Club for a wonderful week of driving.

John McKee has been getting around as he also attended the Range Club Drive at Halliford Camp, Dalby in Queensland on April 29 to May 1, and had a great time.

Our next club drive will be our annual Charlie Phillips Memorial Drive and Celebration of the life of Alison Richards at Round Hill, Piallaway on June 16-18 2023, whilst the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Spring Drive will be held on September 8-16 2023 at Manilla.

### Hunter Horse Driving Society

Margie Walmsley: The Hunter Club has just held its first Phil Marshall Clinic. It was on May 20/21 2023 at the Greta Equestrian Grounds, and was very successful, with a total of 13 lessons over the weekend.

From long reining the small to driving the large (Cinderella carriage), Phil displayed his ability to assess horses and drivers, and leave everyone with something to work on until our next Clinic with him in July.

We are having an unofficial Dressage and Cones event on June 10/11 at Stroud Showground. This event is to give our members the experience of a competition without the pressure of an official event.

To relax a little, a Camp Out and Pleasure Drive in the depth of winter on Aug 1/2 will be held from Stroud Showground to a Hip Camp at Nooroo. Four members from Hunter attended the Harness Boot Camp run by the Tamworth Club in April. It was a fantastic weekend to be involved in.



Hayley Hallam long reining her Shetland under the guidance of Phil Marshall at Greta (M Walmsley)

### North Coast Carriage Club

The Lady Driver: The planets had finally aligned such that North Coast Club members and good weather were simultaneously available. On Sunday May 21, we met at Bellingen Showground for one of our casual tea-drinking-carriage driving Club Days. Bello is a lovely heritage-style village, and the showground is the same (but with far fewer coffee shops) - a very relaxed place to plod or trot around.

The day was dominated by the paddock fleas, also known as the mini ponies, with five being driven.



The North Coast Club mini ponies at Bellingen – Captain, Honey, Ebony, Polly and Glory (L Booth)

Rowena Walker set up cones in a star pattern, and we had an impromptu trial at driving a type of quadrille at a walk and then at a trot. It was a bit of fun, and the movements would be very effective put to music (stay tuned – pun intended). We were delighted to see Christine O'Rourke back in the sulky seat and joining us for the day with Jasper (not a mini, but the Club members are an inclusive lot, so we did not hold Jasper's massive 13 or so hands against him).



Christine O'Rourke with Jasper at the North Coast Club Day at Bellingen (L Booth)

Understandably, omissions might occur when someone gets out of the habit of packing for a Club Day. In the past, we've had a member turn up without a bit (bitless driving at an ACDS activity – it's never going to happen, and there was no driving for that hapless member), and of course, many of our members choose to drive without winkers. However, turning up without any bridle, winkered or otherwise is a new one! Thankfully a short drive up the Waterfall Way and a rendezvous with an absent member resulted in winkers being procured for our forgetful friend.

Heidi Naylor spent a few hours scrubbing her pinto Honey clean the day before, only to find husband Scott had turned her out from the clean arena paddock, and overnight she found some exemplary cow pats to warm her little sides on. Someone else was in the figurative 'manure' when Heidi saw what had happened.

Ordinarily, we look forward to seeing some of our members' foals trotting alongside their dams, carefully tied to the shafts. Instead, we were serenaded by their whinnies from the yards. It's only recently the North Coast Club became aware that Federal ACDS has a policy that a horse cannot be led from a horse drawn vehicle. It seems the baby has been thrown out with the bathwater, as this very effective training technique, which introduces young horses to the noise and jostling of carriage driving, is not possible at "sanctioned or non-sanctioned activities". The policy is

available here for members to read <https://tinyurl.com/yphku699>

At most club gatherings, Heidi spends most of the day in the sulky, sipping cups of tea and dipping biscuits. Her friends are silly enough to indulge her. She maintains that she does three hours of carriage driving on the day, but other members believe that some form of movement is required for it to be identified as *driving*. Meanwhile, Honey is adept at standing perfectly still so Heidi doesn't spill a drop of her precious tea. Until the planets align again and a Club Day occurs, the North Coast Club wishes you safe and enjoyable driving.

## SHOW DRIVING NEWS

### CANBERRA ROYAL and MOSS VALE

**SHOWS** by Kathy Brammall (Camden Club)  
Steve and Kathy Brammall travelled to EPIC to compete in the Shetland harness show driving with Rawhiti Park Torley (George). The day was quite hot and gusty winds made keeping the hat on, a challenge.



Kathy Brammall with Rawhiti Park Torley at Canberra Royal (S Brammall)

George performed well to win the Shetland turnout class. He was also placed in the Novice and open gelding classes.

Martyn Minns and Kathy Brammall flew the Camden Harness Club flag at Moss Vale Show. Numbers were a little down this year but the champion line up had 4 quality exhibits. Martyn with the amazing Friesian Ulrika was awarded Reserve Champion Harness Exhibit. Their workout was faultless, with a beautiful extension. Kathy and Mirabella Lady Lass (Penny) came away with Reserve Champion Harness Turnout and also won the driven Shetland class. Penny also performed very well on the day.

## OUT AND ABOUT AT LOCAL SHOWS

by Sue White (Southern Highlands Club)  
Southern NSW members have been out showing their horses and ponies at a number of agricultural shows and breed promotion group events. With so many shows deciding to drop harness classes

either due to lack of numbers or pressure from hack riders, it is important to support shows and promotion groups who go to the effort of putting on a program.

The Southern Region APSB and the WPCS regional promotion groups put on some great programs at the Goulburn Pony Club grounds and are the best place to get new ponies and horses out in company with minimal numbers of normal show distractions (carnival, dogs, cattle, motor bikes, etc). The Southern Region Welsh Promotion Group also puts on similar events at the Goulburn Pony Club grounds, and are again great to take new ponies to.

Drivers supporting these events and local Ag shows at Crookwell and Gunning earlier this year included the Ragg and Proctor family supporting junior driver classes, and the Barlow Family's Riverlodge team - Nagero Harmony, Riverlodge Fanfare, grey pony Nagero Dancing Queen and palomino Riverlodge Fanfare.

Max Pearce has been out showing Beauwood Dougal while Peter and Sue White have been showing their Hackney horse Makari Walter, a new Welsh Sec D Burrowa Rufus and their ponies Burrowa Achilles Lad and Natreme Captain's Delight.

## **CINDERELLA ARRIVALS TEAM AT SCONE HORSE FESTIVAL PARADE**

From an account by Leeanne Taylor (Hunter Club) The Scone Horse Festival Parade was held on Saturday May 6 2023 and themed 'Kings and Queens of the Stables'. Leeanne Taylor, Barry Smith and Blake Campbell together with Percheron crosses Gus and Jess harnessed to the Cinderella carriage took part.



The Cinderella Arrivals Team – driver Leanne Taylor, groomers Barry Smith and Blake Campbell and the horses Gus and Jess (J Towse)

Preparations started on the Thursday before and continued through Friday, cleaning and polishing the carriage, washing and drying the two horses, and packing harness and top hats and tails. Finally the carriage was loaded back into its trailer, and

cars were connected to the trailer and horse float, ready for an early start on Saturday.

Leeanne was up at 3am to feed animals before the entourage set off from Woodville at 5.30am.

They arrived at White Park in Scone a bit before 8am, unloaded, put the harness on Gus and Jess, then changed into their top hats and tails.

Leeanne's brother John was there lending a hand. The horses were hooked up and Leeanne took up the reins, with Blake and Barry playing their part as footmen. John was the photographer. They headed to the marshalling area for 9.30am judging and then waited for the parade to start at 10.45am. The horses had to contend with cars, kids, people with strollers, balloons, mini ponies and all sorts of chaos around them, but were perfect.



Ready for the Horse Festival Parade in Scone (J Towse)

During the parade the horses coped well again with decorated semi trailers, a marching band, flags, more balloons and generally lots of noise. Leeanne was very proud of them. After finishing the parade and having photos taken, they went back to White Park and unharnessed, fed and watered the horses under shady trees and had lunch. Finally they packed up and headed for home about 2pm, after 'a fantastic but exhausting day'. Everyone is looking forward to doing it all again next year.

## **ASHWOOD HACKNEY STUD DISPERSAL SALE MAY 27 2023**

by Sue White (Southern Highlands Club)

A lifetime collection of an amazing and eclectic array of nearly 100 vehicles, harness, and equine memorabilia was dispersed among at times frenetic bidding, from the hundreds of people from across Australia at the late Ashleigh Woods' Ashwood Hackney Stud dispersal.

It was a who's who of show driving, and a great opportunity to see a wonderful collection of vehicles and associated accessories and equipment. It included dog and goat carts, invalid and bath chairs, broughams, buggies in large numbers, unique historic vehicles, two sleds popular with

bidder, a staggering number of lamps keenly contested and the most spider vehicles (once frowned upon) seen in one sale or collection and everything in between. It was a total dispersal right down to stable forks, feeders, boots, brushes and boot polish, and dozens and dozens of show and work harnesses, whips etc etc.



The large crowd at the Ashwood Sale (S White) Among the NSW attendees were Rick and Kerrie Jones, Max Pearce and his team, Jenny Brennan, Judy and Ray Hynes, Shelley Brodie, Joanne Maunder, Mark Glendenning, Shane Keir, Mark and Jeannie Burton and Brooke West, while Andrew James and Vicki Mantel were waving the Victorian flag. WA visitors were Marg Langan and Jon Kelly and I suspect some Ashwood items will be heading west. It was pleasing to see so many active showies buying vehicles and no doubt many will have an outing in the next show season. Some of the rarer historic vehicles are making their way to interstate museums.



The orderly lines of vehicles ready for the Auction (S White)

It was a very well conducted sale and I hope Ashleigh would be pleased to see where his beloved vehicles, harness and memorabilia have gone. The Ashwood name will live on in the stories of their new owners.

## STORY OF A GS WAGON

by Graham Brown (Reedy Creek Club)

I have been active in the Australian Light Horse movement since the early 1980's, working with the NSW Lancers Mounted Detachment based in Parramatta, and later, as a Member and Director of the Australian Light Horse Association, forming my own Troop in Moss Vale (NSW) after we moved to the Southern Highlands.

When I retired in 2014, I set out to achieve a long held desire to find and restore a vehicle of WW1 vintage which I could incorporate into our Light Horse presentations.



British GS (General Service) wagon on active service somewhere in France during WWI

After all, kids today, with all their electronic gadgets, do not realise how basic the facilities available to our Troops were in WW1. There were few motorised vehicles. Most of them were horse drawn. Communications were sent largely by Carrier Pigeon – there were no phones or two-way radios. Messages were carried by men running from place to place under active fire, and so on. Eventually I found the remains of a GS Wagon in the collection of Mark Burton and he agreed to rebuild it for me.



My GS wagon as found (G Brown)

That took some months, and when I collected it, it was all raw timber. I spent time researching colours and markings so it could be presented as accurately as possible.



The GS wagon as delivered, after rebuilding by Mark Burton (G Brown)

My grandfather's service in WW1 was relevant in this regard. He apparently had flat feet, so was not eligible for enlistment into the AIF, so in 1916 he paid his own fare to France where he joined the Australian Comforts Fund. He was soon appointed 2IC of the ACF in Europe, and in 1917 he was appointed an Honorary Captain in the AIF, the rank being given 'so he could requisition transport'. Of course, motorised vehicles were reserved for the Military, so I imagine that what he could use were wagons like my GS Wagon. Accordingly, my Wagon is marked, indicating that it could only carry 'other' goods. Wagons carrying Ammunition supplies to the Front were marked with a Red Triangle and had absolute priority on the road.



Anzac Day at Exeter 2021. The GS wagon showing its red 'Club' symbol. The nurse is Isobella Sonter. (Troop Photographer)

My Wagon is marked with a Red 'Club' symbol which differentiates it from an Ammunition Wagon.

The Wagon itself was made in 1916 by A. Pengelly & Co in Edwardstown, north of Adelaide. They were also manufacturers of train and tram carriages. In all, there were more than 100,000 of this type of Wagon in use by the Allied forces in WW1, made by different makers all over Australia, the UK, France Canada, South Africa, NZ and so on. There was a symmetry in the patterns made for the Allies. Parts (mainly wheels)

were interchangeable, but there were 'quirks' – each maker would do something distinctive. There were also French, German and other models made for the requirements of each country.



Manufacturer's plate on the GS wagon (G Brown)

Our Wagons were usually drawn by 2 horses but an additional 2 or 4 horses could easily be added if required either for heavy loads or in wet or boggy country. The bare Wagon weighs around 750kg, and could well be loaded with more than 1000kg, depending on the product being carried. Usually, the wagon was to be driven at a walk only, because the horses and wagons were valuable, and not expendable. Not expendable, but the expected service life of a wagon like this was around 3 months in active service. My one is now 107 years old. Most of the Ironwork is original, and there is one piece of original timber still on it. The wheels on this wagon (now) are also original Australian pattern. They differ very slightly from the British pattern wheels, but are totally interchangeable in 'the field'.



Anzac Day 2022 with horses Maggie and Lazarus (Troop Photographer)

## HARNESS

Military harness is quite different to driving harness today, or even at the time. It is made to be easily and quickly mounted, and removed. Collars were used at times, but breastplates were more common because they were not dependant on the size of the horse. There were 'quick disconnect' fittings of the time as accidents or injuries in combat were inevitable and an injured, or dead, horse needed to be quickly removed from service. My harness has been made to the original Military pattern, using original harness as a pattern.

## INTERESTING CARRIAGES IN GERMANY (continued)

Graham Brown photographed these carriages at a Festival at Tegte in Germany about 20 years ago.



## PLEASURE DRIVING LINE UPS



Tamworth Club Somerton Pleasure Drive on Mothers Day in front of the Somerton Hotel (E O'Brien)



Drivers outside the historic Bullagreen Woolshed during the Gulgong Club Armatree Pleasure Drive (P Honeyman)