

THE WELLINGTON AREA TRAIL RIDING CLUB NEWSLETTER

www.geocities.com/watrcctr/

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Wellington Area Trail Riding Club
PO Box 54 202
Mana
Wellington

President:
Gabrielle Deuss
04 237 5085

Vice President:
Sharon Nickless
04 564 3099

Secretary:
Liz Antunovic
04 233 8968

Rhona Fraser
Lisa Hart
Mark Johnson
Kath Leeves
Jacqui Mason
Mike McCuan
Sandy McCuan
Leanne Moss
Nicole Munro
George Theodorou

Newsletter contributions:
lisahart@clear.net.nz

Message from Ed...

Hi all

What another fantastic day **Battle Hill** (the Rhona Fraser Challenge). There were a record number of riders – 58 to be exact – and it proved to be another tough ride (for some anyway).

I rode out with Jocelyn Laine and unfortunately took a wrong turn but we got back on track after about ten minutes. We ventured up the hill without any problems but coming down the other side, we hit some mud – which Flipper doesn't particularly like – she veered right and slipped down a small bank into a fence, with me still in the saddle. Thankfully she didn't panic and calmly got up on her feet when I said it was okay – with only a cut shoulder to show for it. Surprisingly, we still came in 7 minutes early, and although her heart rate was a bit high, I was thankful to get vetted through without any lameness – Flipper happened to be sound too

Thanks so much to Liz Antunovic and Sue Iorns for organising another great ride and to all the helpers; Jacqui, Kath, Mark, Nicole, Helen, vets Julia Bryce and Terri Fordham, vet writers Katrina Wood-Smith and John Percival and to anyone else I've missed out. There are **photos** of all the people who got a special thanks this year – have a look on the back page. Also, congratulations to Emma Mason for winning the raffle – Jacqui, I hope you got to drink that bottle of Lindauer

Our **next ride** is being held **Bikare** (Titahi Bay) on 16 January so I will send out a newsletter just before this time with more details

In the meantime, the **North Island Champs** are being hosted by the Waimiha Endurance Club on 1-3 January. Good luck to everyone competing in this event – including the **CTR Teams Competition** being trialled

(pictured right is Jacqui Mason holding the silver **potter** that's up for gabs!). The Wellington horses are pretty damntough and I know all the competitors will do our Club proud. Can someone please remember to take **photos** so I can put them in the newsletter... thanks.

Finally, as 2004 **rdws** to an end, I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year break.

See you all in 2005...



This picture was sent out by Kim Cheeseman just recently what a beautiful shot!

Winners at Battle Hill...

Open: Sandy McCuan – P&R Dust Lad

Intermediate: Tina Plastow – Dancing With a Lif

Warehouse Grain: Aelyne Macrae – Pylon Ghiquit

Novice: Hannah Mackey – Ali

Junior: Natalie Bickerton – J.A. Katarina

Groom & Turnout...

- | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|
| 1st | = | Ashley French |
| 2nd | = | Marcia Leighton |
| 3rd | = | Emma Mason |
| 4th | = | Marcia Leighton |
| 5th | = | Lisa Coulmann |
| 6th | = | Liz Antunovic |



Dogs, smoking and CTR don't mix...

WATRC's policy of no smoking and no dogs at rides, is serious. We run the risk of losing ride venues when anyone ignores these rules.

Right now we may not be able to return to one venue because of the presence of dogs in vehicles and on the ride base, despite a sign on the site and notification in the newsletter that no dogs are allowed.

We cannot allow any dogs at rides – at in your car or truck, on the grounds, or ride base. I am sorry if this inconveniences people but these are the rules.

Smoking is also not permitted at WATRC rides. Smoking affects everyone, not just the smoker. In dry summers, there is an added risk.

The WATRC Committee urges everyone to assist keeping our ride venues by following the rules set by the landowners, Council, and forest owners and by WATRC itself.

Gabrielle Deuss
President



Days of our Rides...

Battle Hill – the ride of hell?

This year the Battle Hill ride attracted an almost record number of riders – at times the racks were like Picadilly Circus. It was good to have Maureen and Les die in attendance. Maureen and Les always come to Battle Hill and it does add to the status of the ride to have Maureen slowing us down. This year she did it again, she withdrew her horse for its own good, after exiting through at the halfway mark.

It was also good to see Jaki and Abbie Bickerton back competing, complete with their team of supporters, including immediate Past President of NZECTRA, Greg Bickerton. Natalie and JA Katarina went away with the Rhonardser Junior ribbon, from two time winner Jody Piripi on Aspen Hills Moon Shadow. It was also really good to welcome Shane Dougan from the Wairarapa on his stallion Rival. With all my mares in season, I think he had quite an influence on some of their behaviour (excuses excuses excuses).

The ride was later in the year than usual, which provided twin benefits of better footing in the drier conditions and fitter horses. Last year I remember struggling around feeling utterly exhausted at the end, especially after the "go slow" over the 20 river crossings, then the "catch up" area proved to be a hill at the end on forever. This year the river crossings seemed much less traumatic, though I had of two riders who nearly fell in a ditch and one whose horse refused to jump a fallen log until given some serious discipline. The ride was what I used to think CTR rides were all about; lots of challenge, some hard hill climbing, wonderful views and lots of room for things to go wrong. As it happened, all the riders rode to the conditions and there were very few vet calls.

It began with a long flat ideal for warming up, then a loop around farmland, before crossing Transmission Gully. Then it was onward and upward largely through pine forest which protected from both sun and wind before winding down through a track which was laced with springs and down to the creek. The river or creek crossings were slow but easy riding and then it was back to the top again and onto logging roads before the final decline back to Transmission Gully.

For me, the biggest challenge was going out across Transmission Gully, I was tagging along with Denise and Raylene, who went into what they called a "controlled canter". The light Express decided it was an out of control gallop which indicated the need for a little rodeo exercise. I am not that keen on that sort of thing, so instead of lifting my heels high to get maximum points, I dug them into her side to try to cling on. Then, she thought, was encouragement to buck harder. When she ran out of steam and I managed to haul her head up over her leg my saddle was sitting nearly on her rear. In the true spirit of CTR, Denise and Raylene (who had by this time vanished down to the creek) came back to see if I was alright. I was really grateful but it was going to take me 10 minutes to sort out (the horse preferably when they weren't looking) the saddle told them to go on. Ten to 15 minutes later I was back on board with a suitably repentant animal – who then showed what Arabs are all about, she just trotted steadily and determinedly up that hill till she caught up. After having high heart rates at Mt Cecil, I was a little concerned about all this effort but for some reason my horse coped better (maybe because of that stallion).

Despite these little deviations from the norm, it was one of the most enjoyable rides of the season for me. Getting the time

right was a little challenging and catapulted down the last hill of the Puketiro Loop at the rate of knots, along with either or soother riders we picked up along the way. My saddle has a tendency to slip and I rather hoped that this wouldn't happen as we were creering round a hairpin bend with a cliff to the right. Everyone got to the bottom safely and some took off into the distance to catch up time.

Each ride in the season seems to be better than the one before. Good weather helps. Battle Hill seemed to run like clockwork, no one would have guessed at all the work that went on before. Julia Bryce from Lakeside Vets was very complimentary about the organisation. Once again thanks to all the ride helpers (some of whom had a little recognition for the Club from Father Christmas today).

One final point, not everyone goes in there to compete and turn out – but this is a very contested event. At Battle Hill it was won by Ashley French. This is a real credit to Ashley as she does everything to spice herself. Today was an especially hard fought competition so all the credit to her.

Gabrielle Deuss



Jocelyn Laine – heading home.

CTR Team announced...

An exciting new challenge at the North Island Endurance & CTR Championships this year is the Inter-Club CTR team event.

Unfortunately, Wellington is only allowed one team – we could easily have sent two. The Committee had a number of nominations before it.

The criteria we looked for were:

- consistency of the horse/rider partnership
- an improving horse which would beat its best on 2 January
- experience of both horse and rider temperament
- riders with the qualities to positively represent the Club
- soundness of the horse

The outcome was very close and the following were chosen:

Open: Sandy McCuan R reserve: TBA
Intermediate: Sharon Nickless R reserve: Tina Plawow
Junior: Emma Mason R reserve: Ashley French

Congratulations to all the team members and may thanks to those who put their names forward. One or two members did not contest the placings as they intended to compete in endurance on the same day.

Gabrielle Deuss

Classifieds...



Horses:

- **3yo Appy/TB X**
15.1hh, black dun gelding, broken in and going forward, good natured. Suit any discipline \$2,000
Ph Rhona Fraser 06 308 9160 (Fetherston).
- **Anglo Arab**
6yo chestnut mare, 15.1hh. Willing, did well at Foxton, Battle Hill and Solway Park ODEs. Full sister to Bedazzled, promising hack Nelson/Marlborough area. \$3,000
Ph Rhona Fraser 06 308 9160 (Fetherston).
- **P&R Colidas Image**
3yo gelding, he is P&R Colidas Hopeful lad and dam P&R Dustis Milindaw (as full sister to P&R Dustis Sowprint). He is very quiet to handle and has been broken into gogo Nick Van Der Sands (DBought horses). Nick makes atop job of breaking in horses, and they are very settled when he has finished with them. He will more approx. 15.2hh and is very athletic with good pace Price is \$3,250 which includes breaking in fees (\$900).
Phone Rae Mutch 07 847 5555
- **Relko Jafa**
Granddaughter of Ngapa Joussif, 1yo chestnut Ab mare, pretty quiet, bvely fast walk. Has been around mare for years but did a 40km ride in youth. Suit confident beginner or child. No vice
Phone Gabrielle 04 237 5085
- **Arabian gelding**
3yo, well handled, very good natured and good conformation.
Phone Gabrielle on 04 237 5085
- **Standardbred mare**
15.1 / 15.2hh, 1yo, has hated and jumpswell, easy to catch, shoe and fit.
Phone Helen 04 976 1191 Mon-Fri after 6pm not in the weekend or leave a message on 027 208 1130
- **Ken the Confidence Builder -for lease**
Ken has been leased out as a confidence builder in the past. He is very gentle and totally bombproof. 15.1hh. All gear included in lease including Ab No heavy rides please.
Phone Kath on 04 237 8122
- **Fernhill Suriya** (Taurere Surzada x AAkatalina), rising 4yo pure Arabian grey gelding. Mature 15hh. She has fantastic nature and exc. endurance breeding (double Kbtan). Fantastic movement and conformation. Hillraised. Load of potential. Ready to break in. Owner overcommitted. \$3,000
- **Houston** 1/2 Ab, 1/4 standardbred, 1/4 TB, 1yo grey gelding 15.1hh. Broken in but regen, heavier build, good heart rates. Very honest, absolute character. Approved home only. Ph Tina Moore 06 322 9800

Shonnie's Sport Horses:

- **Sonic** One stunning black gelding, rising 4yo, 15.2hh, will mature to 15.3hh or more, Kaimanawa/Appaloosa, bred for endurance/CTRA real people horse, very sound, broken in, been ridden gently and ready to go. Very quiet and safe. \$4,000 firm.
Ph Shonnie for more details 04 232 5734

Hoofboots...

Old Mac Multipurpose Hoofboots and Therapeutic Saddle Pads – now available from Lynne Moore.
Old Mac Hoofboots can be used where extra protection is needed on the unshod horse for all types of riding, or on the shod horse during transportation or breeding, or when poulticing is required. The ultimate in protection, shock absorption and comfort. See www.oldmacs.com for further information or phone or e-mail Lynne on 021 147 6081 or 06 354 7861, bootfitter_nz@hotmail.com

Saddles...

- **Wintec endurance pro / black / 17.5"**
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- **Wintec 17" / black / GP**
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Phone Annette 04 389 3081

Grazing available...

Tawa, in Collins Ave. \$50 per month, including worming. Conditions apply. For more info, phone George on 04 383 8407 or 021 760 847.

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Email grigsbyn@xtra.co.nz

Website...

BJ has started up a website where everyone is free to put their thoughts/photos on recent rides, horse ailments, horses/tack for sale or lease etc. Have a look, the link is:

<http://groups.msn.com/Head2TailHorseProducts>

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Thanks to all our helpers this year..



Gate/time keeper, Helen Percival...



Camp Mum (-) ...



The entries man, Mark Johnson...



Vet for the day, Julia Byce...



Sandy does it again..well done!

Also, thanks to our sponsors...



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Vet, Terri Fordham...



Treasurer, Mke McCuan...