



March 2018



Carla Barakat on Nina and Naomi O'Shaughnessy on Castlebar Party Girl, in the 160km at ESNZ Endurance Nationals

Editorial

... and then suddenly there were only a few rides left in the season. Where on earth did the months go!! There have been some great personal achievements this season. After Alison Higgins won both the 160km and 120km at South Island Champs I had a look at the records on the website to see how many others have claimed double titles at a Championship. There have been several at North Island Champs, most recently Pip McLellan (as she was at the time). This then made me look at how many people have claimed the 160km title at both a Nationals and Island champs in the same season. There are a few more of those, and the names are likely well known to most of us. It makes for interesting/nostalgic reading casting an eye down the lists of title holders. Personally I try not to even think about trophies when working out my season plan, or even my ride plan for the coming weekend, but when you do get your hands on a trophy and get to have your name engraved on it it's a proud moment to be listed among riders who you've looked up to or heard so much about. I guess the take home message is that there is always more to achieve. Celebrate the small victories and cherish the bigger ones. In the lead up to Nationals the top three in both the Senior FEI series and the Championship series were an Australian, a North Islander and a South Islander. All done and dusted now. I wonder what the Distance tables will look like for the AGM and Prizegiving.



Daryl Owen

ESNZ Endurance Board 2018

Its been a fairly quiet month on the Board. At this end of the season everything is working towards the end of the season events, such as the AGM in Palmerston North and the annual prizegiving. Jo Lankow has published updates on some of our points series. The draft calendar for next season is awaiting confirmation of dates and venues for the Championship rides. The rest of the calendar is built around these dates, so as soon as they are confirmed the draft calendar can be released. With the Strategic Plan having been released work now needs to be done on implementing it, and this is ongoing. The affiliation agreement has been updated along with a draft constitution for clubs for clubs to adjust to their varying needs. These will be sent out very soon. Club affiliations are due before the date of the AGM. Remember that for you to be eligible for awards at prizegiving you must be a member of an affiliated club.

Forums are coming up in May at Taupo and in Christchurch. The next Board meeting will be the same weekend as the Taupo forum, so if there is anything you would like raised please let someone know.

Upcoming rides

North Island 2017-2018

In April
Waikato

And in May
Forum at Taupo NEC
Waikato

South Island 2017-2018

In April
Marlborough
Canterbury
Mt Nimrod

And in May
Marlborough
Forum at NEC McLeans Island

Rides around the country

Ruahine – Waiouru

Photos by Shantalle Geurtjens



It was a welcome return to Ruahine club's Waiouru venue this year. Last year the ride brief was to 'do the hill loop, then the Waiouru loop and then the hay bales loop'. This year with no hay bales left in the paddocks the briefing changed to going around the cows instead. A great thing about this ride is the way it keeps coming through base – opportunity to drop off layers that aren't needed any more, grab a drink, or even to convince horses that just because we're back at base we're not necessarily stopping. All parts of this course provide specific challenges, from good climbs in the first part of the course to longer flowing sections in the middle. The early morning chill both days burned off to warm days, and in the valleys it was actually quite hot. A couple of people said they saw deer on the track as well, and (for those who don't live hear it) the mountain always provides a spectacular backdrop.

New to the event this year was the option of multiday rides. Both the 120km and the 100km were run as two day rides. The 120km was four loops, with two loops each day. Don Sagar kept a steady pace throughout, winning the ride on Wai Totara

Moon Star in 8:04:50. Joanne Loveridge was the other qualifier in the event, taking second place on Silands Pilot just over two hours later. Jayden Loveridge and Makahiwi Phoenix kept the momentum on their successful season, taking the JY120km win in 9:21:02

The 100km event was three loops. Pippa Roberts and Wai Totara Rameriz claimed in the win in 7:50:58, seven minutes ahead of Deirdre Bartlett and Craig Royston Xmas Star.

In the single day ride options, Georgia Smith and Glenmore Styleish looked very strong in Saturday's 60km, winning the event in 4:18:54. Second place went to Daryl Owen on Miro Bay Plenty, and third to Mike Bragg on Miro Blaze of Glory.

Tayla Morris and Alshar Blue Levi teamed up alongside Patricia Ireland and Sayfwood Oshaarnna in the JY 60km, Tayla crossing the line just ahead of Patricia.

Lucy Newton took the win in Saturday's 40km Intermediate on Sayfwood Classique, and all novice entries completed successfully.

Sunday saw the multiday riders heading out and also another programme of single day rides. Ross Hill and Rewa rode a text book ride to take the 80km win in 5:43:01. Sandra Warren and Daryl Owen wisely resisted the temptation to challenge him, Sandra crossing the line in second place on Craig Royston Zarita five minutes later just ahead of Daryl and Miro Lugh.

Ruth Dawber and Miro Dusty Trails rode a steady 60km to take the win in Sunday's Intermediate 60km with Gemma Haywood and Roselea Royal Fire taking second place. Rowan Redmond and Martika Fire looked thoroughly in synch to take the Intermediate JY 60km.

In the Intermediate 40km Amanda Mills and Hyforce SF Blue Falcaan took the win in 3:12:13, followed by Cherry Brown on Tararua Diablo.

Other highlights of the weekend were seeing Isla Mutch out doing an Intro 40km on Mauku Mystique – the



third generation of this family taking to saddle; Tyler Bumby, who started out doing CTR rides and is now doing 80km endurance as well, when she's not competing in Mounted Games; and also the very strong number of riders who had made the trip from North of Auckland for this event.

Great weather, great atmosphere, and a great last competition for some before heading off to Nationals.

Wairarapa - Black Rock Road 11 March 2018 contributions from Jane Ferguson

Just ten minutes from Masterton, Black Rock Rd is superbly positioned for riders not wanting to travel too far to compete, with excellent hill riding on offer. It is known as a fairly tough ride, with a mix of a small amount of road work, then mainly rolling farm country. It offers amazing views, and great riding, with some good climbs to test horse fitness.

Pre-entry numbers were encouraging, but unfortunately various circumstances from road slips, to pulled shoes, to horse or rider illness had an impact on the field, with ten riders having to withdraw prior to ride day. However 27 entries still came, making for a strong competition, particularly in the 10km intro class.

Just three riders had a crack at the challenging endurance 40km hill track, all successfully qualifying well. Jane Ferguson and Daagir were the sole entrant in the 40km intermediate, and vetted through well to take the win, closely followed by mother and daughter combo, Charlotte and Elyza McDonald in the intro 40km. Charlotte's station hack was a star, being an older mare, used to working on tough country and she led the small group strongly for much of the ride, though with Jane's seasoned lad stepping up later in the ride as the day heated up. Passing through ride base to head out on the final 10km loop saw all horses looking longingly at their floats before knuckling down to their work.

CTR classes were well supported, with Frank Aldridge on his young mare Lonestar Golden Chalice winning the open 30km, closely followed by Stephanie Papps on the experienced Saamen Silhoutte who was returning to the competition arena after a break of several years.

The talented CTR combination of Sue Smith and Taurere Dyani had a run away win in the intermediate 30km – surely a future Island or National champ in the wind here? Debbie Morris on her new ride MF Atlas and Lisa Southon on Tararua El Dente also competed strongly for 2nd and 3rd.

Three juniors, all with National champ title aspirations battled it out in the junior 30km class, with Grace Blyth on KD Migal coming through for 1st. This pair currently top the national junior season series point leaderboard, and were looking for a strong performance as they completed their preparations to travel south.

It was a closer competition in the novice 30km class with Laura Huddle riding Sayfwood Classique taking the win from riding buddy Lucy Newton on SS Kamal.

The novice 10km class was very well supported with 14 riders enjoying the varied terrain and scenic views. A delighted Lynda Kessell, in her first competition in quite some time, won on Spud, from Harriet Brown and Ohio. A tied 3rd place score for Lauren Dougan and Sam Hill eventually swung Sam's way, being just 35 seconds over the optimum time, compared to Lauren's 38 seconds.

Wairarapa – Whakamarumaruru Station Hawkes Bay 18 March 2018 Photos by Val Muir

Sunday the 18th of March was an exciting day for the Wairarapa club as we worked to return endurance to the Bay after a gap of many years. This may have been the first endurance ride in the Bay since it was last held at Horse of the Year and so was a historic occasion, thanks to the generosity of landowners, Tina Plastow (being her brainchild and finding a ride base), and Shane and Jenny for travelling back and forth sorting logistics and marking a track.



Due to the busy ride calendar, it did unfortunately clash with Horse of the Year, and as a result numbers were well down on what had been expected, which was somewhat disappointing. But for those who were able to make it, they were rewarded with superb riding country, and a fabulous track. All riders came back buzzing with enjoyment after besting the challenging track – it was such a pleasure to ride on entirely new country, with some of the most

incredible views I've seen all season.

Three competitors headed out in the 40km intermediate class, with Debbie Morris on the novice MF Atlas, Lisa Southon on Tararaua El Dente, and Jane Ferguson on Daagir riding as a



pack from start to finish. The course was a worthy club season finale, with a winning time of 3 hours and 36 minutes showing how honestly the horses were working, with the group riding strongly the entire way. Jane and Lisa discussed on course who was likely to take the senior win as the last few hundred metres didn't lend themselves to a gallop finish. In the end, it was Lisa and Ellie who crossed first at a fast canter, with Jane and Denny two seconds back, closely followed by Debbie and Mister. Third place in the

intermediate senior was a further hour back, with Lucy Newton and Sayfwood Classique successfully qualifying.

Four novice riders also successfully completed the 40km, with times ranging from 3 hours 36 minutes (Debbie) to 4 hours 41 minutes (Kara Ireland and SS Kamal).

The remaining 8 riders all chose to complete the 20km loop, and again all had a wonderful time and successfully got through. First over the line was local rider Heather Dixon and Pip, then another local rider Roz Muir and Diamond Park Levi (Roz had also strongly promoted the ride in her community). Third over the line was Pip Ireland and Sayfwood



Oshaarnna, who have been enjoying a more relaxing season.

We hope to be able to repeat the ride next season, and even perhaps create an exciting 80km track, if it is possible to get access to flatter land around the vineyards over the road. It is very well worth the journey to enjoy the privilege of riding on such great country and our thanks go to everyone who worked so hard to make it happen.

Nelson at Twynham

Photos by Rosey Deakin and Lloyd Higgins



Nelson Club's last 80km ride for the season was looking to be a little light on entries, until the decision was made to make it a multi-day ride, with a 40km loop on Saturday and the remaining two loops on Sunday. This proved to be a popular move, with seven riders taking this option.

The track this year went up one valley, up and around through forestry and returned along lovely following flats beside the Buller river and over the hill back to base.

Jane Neale and Kahuna Whispa took out first place in the 80km, followed by Bill Croft on Hine Hukaterere. There were 40 km and 24km rides both days. Most were novice riders but Robyn Hill and Purdak won the 40km on Saturday followed soon after by Heidi Bulfin and Stonelea Sparkling Rose for second. Kayla Ching and Seawind Dancer came in a half hour later for third place. Most entries over the weekend were novice entries, with only two not completing. Another great Twynham weekend



AWEC at Te Atiu Creek Regional Park and Te Kauri Downs Farm

Contribution from Jan Bambury Photos by Kyle Hawkridge

Held on March 25th this ride was the 2nd on the glorious regional park, Atiu Creek. Thanks to the Auckland City Council for giving permission. This ride however, had the bonus of the use of the farm Te Kauri Downs as well. The Bolers, Selywn and Michelle, marked a great course and Te Kauri Downs farm manager had



nearly all the gates open for us. The farm route was magnificent as was the Atiu tracks which suddenly open up onto the mighty Kaipara harbour. The rides were a 40, 20, and 10km and although lacking the super arduous middle North Island hills,

it was still a challenging ride. The 40km Intermediate was won by Emma Tunstall on Windvale Faridah with Selwyn Boler winning the Novice intro on Tararua Astro. The winner of the 20km Intro was Christine Andrews on Glendrum Tristan and the 20km junior winner was Rebekah Haigh on Rednalhgi Romi Ropati. Toni Tanner came in first in the 10km on Carlos. Thanks to all helpers and our new vet Meryl from Dairy Flat Veterinary Clinic. She was super enthusiastic and is even willing to vet again at one of our rides!!



One thing I've noticed in the sport of endurance over the years is the relationship of riders. Whole families are involved, married couples, mothers, daughters, fathers and daughters. There are not that many equestrian sports that often include all those involved **actually riding**. Most equestrian endeavours involve half on the ground supporting "the" rider. The AWEC ride was no different with Sue Drinnan and daughter Adrienne Williams competing in the 40km.



Rebekah Haigh getting her ribbon from mother Karyn having ridden with her father Allan. In addition Jane and Rex Saunders were out competing together in the 10km. Overall a great ending to the AWEC ride season and now for the search for some new venues. We need to challenge those beyond the Bombays to travel through the motorway labyrinth and when that terror is over to relax and ride our milder hills!!



Mackenzie

Photos by Country Road Photography



With Nationals being relatively local to MacKenzie club this year this event was a final training opportunity and outing for some club members. Louise Holmes and Silands Dainty Dish were the sole Open 80km entry, all the rest opting for Novice.

A pattern over this season has been the number of new young juniors coming out for lead rein classes and graduating up Intro distances out of lead rein. All eyes on their progress for the remainder of this season and beyond



Marlborough – CTR at Kaituna



Marlborough's March CTR was a welcome return to Kaituna, with a course that took in vineyards, stopbanks and forestry. Creating miles of smiles all round.

Nationals –Brookesdale Station, Springfield

Photos courtesy of Country Road Photography



The final event for the Championship season was the ESNZ National Championships, being held over Easter in Springfield, Canterbury. The weather leading up to the event was a little unsettled but over the weekend it was near perfect. Friday morning started with the 160km event heading out at 3am. The first loop was 40km long and headed out over hills to a loop along the Waimakariri River and past a small water wheel. The

terrain was a bit of everything, with rolling hills, rough ground, rocks, water crossings, road verge and a good portion of long grassy paddocks where you could pick up the pace a little. In the 21 km loop there were a lot of changes of footing, with some boggy bits at the bottom a bit of a ravine, and the 19km loop had more of those deceptive grassy paddocks



with lots of rocks in – definitely not a course where a rider could afford to lose concentration. The first loop saw one rider go out on heart rate and subsequent loops saw a number of others follow, mostly with irregular gait. From 14 senior starters there were five successful completions – pleasingly however the treatment vets remained underemployed all weekend. Naomi O’Shaughnessey and Alison Higgins were the early leaders, until Carla Barakat came to the front and Alison dropped back a little to ride with Penny Toft, before unfortunately going out in the compulsory represent. The final loop saw Naomi and Carla coming down to the finish together at a canter, Naomi in front and Carla fighting to maintain her balance after losing a stirrup. The Australian takes the win, the FEI series and also the Championship series. Well done Naomi, and all going well we’ll be watching out for you at WEG. While Naomi and Castlebar Party Girl took the win, it was Carla Barakat’s Nina who was awarded Best Conditioned (although she clearly couldn’t see the point in galloping for the ridden section when there was no one to race against). Penny Toft and Delilah te cruised in comfortably for third place, Helen Graham and Sherwood Volos in fourth and Daryl Owen and Miro Lugh in fifth. Commiserations to Lisa Simpson who completed the full distance and then trotted up slightly lame at the very last.

Three juniors headed out in the 160km as well. Ana and Hannah Whitehead rode most of the distance together with Kate James staying within reach of them throughout. The fifth loop saw the end for Hannah and Dundevale Nazecca with irregular gait. With 19km to go it was literally a two horse race between Hannah and Craig Royston Zaria and Kate James with Chartei. The finish line saw Ana one second ahead of Kate, taking the win and also Best Conditioned for the class.

The 100km was also run on Friday. Penelope Valk and Mareeka Siraya took the win in this class, narrowly ahead of Robyn Hill and Purdak

Around midnight the famed Canterbury NorWester blew up, taking everyone by surprise and suddenly everyone was out of tents and trucks trying to secure gazebos and tents. Fortunately those who responded so quickly were able to contain the situation with no harm to any horses or people. Empty buckets were filled with water to stop them flying around and gazebos were collapsed – or at least stripped down. The wind howled on through the rest of the night and most of the next day, leaving quite a number of tents worse for the wear and very little loose hay left in yards! Saturday dawned to an amazing red sunrise, and those riding that day had gale force winds to contend with.

The first riders out on Saturday morning as the gale force winds continued were the 61km riders. Philip Graham and Wolfgang Amadeus made short work of it, finishing successfully to take the win. Deirdre Swain and Blacknight Mako took second place half an hour later, with Cathy Nolan and Mr Detroit finishing in third place.

The Open 64km CTR event saw two riders head out, one unfortunately going out lame in the first loop. Anna Graham and AH Loop the Loop however finished safely to take first place.

In the Intermediate 40km it was Paula Kerr and Shardan Shelby who were clear winners, superior heart rates making all the difference. Debby Worsfold and Oscar took second place and Anna



Hynes and Lightning Joe in third. The 40km Junior CTR saw Emma Watson and Little Victory claiming their own victory.

The largest CTR class was the 21km Novice CTR. Scores were very close but the win went to Nicki Sonne and Jet Setter. With the next three qualifiers finishing on the same score other factors differentiated the placings, with second place going to Julie-Anne Sime and Vogue, third going to Marga Marshall and BG Iman, and fourth to Jenny Rouse and Marguerite.

In the 21km Junior class it was Abigail Enstrom and Fernglen Basheera who took first place, well ahead on points of second placegetter Lily Ellis on Taurimu Belle View. Adam Enstrom and Okabella Silver Angel took third place and Hugo Anderson and Buttons finished in fourth.

Nikki Balemi and Gypsy Girl won the 10km Novice class, with Robyn Lewis and Rato taking second, Jill Stephenson and Dunelm Magic Tiger in third and Ann Stewart and Sarzi in fourth, while in the 10km Junior class it was all about Emma Stephenson and Burnside Bracken, taking first place.



It was a Nationals with something for everyone, including a 5km lead rein CTR class. Glenvar Kit Kat has been a wonderful pony with the James family, this season out again with Lexi James, taking first place in the lead rein class. Lucy Stephenson and Peggy Sue took second place, with Anya Holdaway and Chocolate in third.

The wind stopped all of a sudden late in the afternoon, leading to a bitterly cold evening. The ride brief

had included a long discussion about the start time for Sunday's 120km, including a suggestion to set alarm clocks for 2.05am, since the clocks would go back at 2am, and therefore confuse any alarms set for the same time. The 3am start of the 120km was cold, crisp and very clear. The full moon in a clear sky made head torches almost unnecessary. There were 11 starters in the 120km. The early lead was again claimed by Alison Higgins, this time on Northwinds Apollo, and Philip Graham on Rosewood Bashir and they



retained this position all day. Heidi Bulfin on Stonelea Sparkling Rose kept a steady pace in third place, even after a heavy fall when Rose stepped in a hole left Heidi felling a bit off kilter. The end of the ride saw Alison taking the win in a gallop finish, while Philip claimed Best Conditioned. Daryl Owen crossed the line in third, but unfortunately went out lame at the last, leaving Heidi to take third place just under an hour after the leaders. Riding a very careful ride, Mike Bragg cruised in to take fourth place on Miro Blaze of Glory.

In the 80km it was Bill Croft and Hine Hukatere in first place and Jane Neale on Kahuna Whispa in second. Andrea Smith and Glenmore Tornato took third place and Tessa Flintoft and Valinor Park Darius were fourth.

Just before prizegiving some of the major sponsors present were invited to speak. They all had interesting information about their products and all expressed their appreciation for the camaraderie, sportsmanship and horsemanship evident throughout the weekend. Carl Smith (shamelessly) plagiarised a well known song to give us a new endurance poem for the year. The teams event went to Coast to Coast and Beyond – Heidi Bulfin, Robyn Hill, Penelope Valk and Paula Kerr - and the North/South trophy was awarded to the South Island. With the majority of the South Island team also being the winners of each class there was no way the North Island were able to take it home again. (Ed: Next year. We'll get them next year North Island) Overall this was a great event. There were 94 entries overall with 30% of those being CTR and shorter distance endurance, and 14 entries from the North Island. Well done Canterbury club. And thank you to the sponsors who contributed so much. Throughout the weekend various sponsors made a point of walking around and talking to riders to gain a better understanding of what we do. Endurance riders are never shy of talking about their horses. Next year Nationals are back in the North Island. Consider the gauntlet thrown! This year's Nationals is certainly one to beat.



Make a Difference

Travelling around the country

One of the big things about riding endurance is the travel to get to venues. Until you get to know a particular route well it can be hard to find a great spot to unload horses for a bit of a rest along the way. Do you know some amazing places for overnight stays or just for rest stops? It might be a useful resource, especially for new people. Send me your suggestions and we'll see if we can make up a bit of a map. It would be great to know things like address or location (obviously), whether there are any facilities for people, overnight stays or just a rest stop, any cost involved, size of the area (just one horse vehicle or is there room for more).



Carl Smith's 2018 contribution to prizegiving (can you pick the song he plagiarised?)

On a cold autumn morning
Cool breeze in the air
You can find them, saddling up their horses with care
Up ahead in the distance they see the starters box light
Their heart are racing their sight is dim,
They hope everything will be right

So you head to the race line, you hear the starters bell
And you are thinking to yourself is this heaven or is this hell?
You've got your heart set on the finish line, you must believe
321, the starter calls, you are Free to leave

Chorus

This is endurance in New Zealand,
Such a lovely place, set a great pace
You're living the dream in Endurance in New Zealand,
With the light in your eyes, will you secure the prize.

You see the first reflectors, the first K is done,
You are looking forward to feeling the warmth of the Sun
You can feel your horses heartbeat, coming through the night.
Hold steady, hold fast, hold true, there is a the first glimmer of light.

3 loops are completed, lag times are good,
Your strapper pats your shoulder, things are going as they should
Yet you know there is still far to go now
You set your sight on the finish line, you got to reach your goal

Chorus

This is endurance in New Zealand,
Such a lovely place, set a great pace
You're living the dream in Endurance in New Zealand,
Any time of year, you can find them here.

You're now on the last lap, but this ride isn't the same,
You are looking for the rock that could make your horse lame
And finally you are finished, and you are covered in sweat
Your hips are aching & your butt is sore, but you have no regrets

Over a cold drink you recall the ride,
You think of your incredible horse, and your heart swells with pride,
You are headed to bed now, to rest your weary flesh.
You can rest assured that you feed your horse Fiber Fresh!

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Forums – May 2018

Forums will be held on the following dates:

North Island Forum - 5th May

Venue: National Equestrian Centre (Indoor Arena)
Rapids Road
Aratiatia
Taupo

Time: 11am to 3pm

South Island Forum - 19th May

Venue: National Equestrian Centre
McLeans Island Road
Christchurch

Time: 11am to 3pm

There will a short lunch break partway through so it would be advisable to bring your lunch with you.

Topics for Discussion

If you have any topics you would like to be discussed at these forums could you please send to Jo m.lankow@xtra.co.nz no later than 27th April.

AGM

The end of season and AGM is coming up fast. AGM papers will be out in due course, but in the lead up to the the AGM and prizegiving, its worth giving a bit of thought to the special awards – Think about who would like to see nominated for volunteer awards, event of the year, and Sportsmanship. If you have trophies from last season now is also the time to get onto getting them engraved, if you haven't already.



2018 ESNZ Endurance AGM

28th July – Copthorne Hotel
110 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North

Accommodation is available at the Copthorne Hotel. The cost is \$139.00 per room (single, double or twin) and includes breakfast based on single or twin share.

To book rooms at this price please phone the hotel on 06 356 8059 and quote Equestrian Conference.

On-site parking is available. There are other hotels and motels within easy walking distance.

Timetable: - Subject to change

Friday 27th July

- Endurance Board Meeting 3.00pm – 9.00pm

Saturday 28th July

- Forum 8.30am
- CTR Meeting 11.00am
- AGM 1.00pm
- Prize Giving 4.00pm

Sunday 29th July

- Endurance Board Meeting 8.00am – 12.30pm

While no dinner is being organised it would be nice if those staying on Saturday night met up for the evening.

Further details will be available at a later date.



ESNZ Endurance 2018 Annual General Meeting

The ESNZ Endurance 2018 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the 28th July at 1.00pm.

The venue for the AGM is:

Copthorne Hotel, 110 Fitzherbert Avenue, Palmerston North

Agenda of Business to be transacted is as follows:

1. Welcome
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of Minutes from previous AGM – 22nd July 2017
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairperson's Annual Report
6. Financial Annual Report
7. High Performance Annual Report
8. Election of Board Members
9. Election of Technical Committee
10. Set Affiliation Fees for 2019-2020
11. Set Ride Levies for 2018-2019
12. Proposed Rule Changes
13. Approval of Ride Calendar 2018-2019
14. General Business

Also to be held:

8.30am	Forum
11.00am	CTR Meeting
4.00pm	Prize Giving

Notices of Motion due on or before the 30th April.

Nomination forms for the Board, Technical Committee and CTR Committee will be available on or before 1st May.

Nominations for the Board, Technical Committee and CTR Committee due in on or before the 31st May.

The AGM papers, voting forms and proxy forms will available on or before the 7th June.

There is actually life outside of endurance

Endurance riders do other things as well. Congratulations to Brigitte Smith for taking the Junior Rider of the Year title at Horse of the Year this month.

If you do something else as well please let me know so we can celebrate it.

Horses...they're taking us all for a ride

17 Mar, 2018 6:00am
5 minutes to read

HBG 01Jan18 - HBG 03Jan18 - HBG 05Jan18 - HBG 29Jan18 -
Hawkes Bay Today

It's Horse of the Year time again and the Hawke's Bay Showgrounds have been taken over by everything equestrian from horses themselves to horse-themed jewellery.

Back in the olden days when horsepower meant actual stinky, hairy, hooved equines, humans used horses for all sorts of important tasks.

They dragged ploughs to prepare the ground for food crops, trudded in circles harnessed to mill wheels to grind grain, hauled timber out of the bush, shingle for roads, wool bales ... most things we used were dragged from town to town in carts drawn by horses.

They transported us too, on horseback or on wheels.

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Somewhere along the way the sneaky hairy buggers changed the tables on us, and nowhere is it more obvious than at HOY.

The horses at HOY don't drag stuff. In fact they all get there by being towed, in their own personal trailers or in palatial horse-trucks.

And instead of hauling luggage, they now have their own luggage.

No self-respecting horse will leave home and head to a show these days without at least three changes of clothes: daywear, nightwear and underwear at the very least.

Daywear is usually something light in cotton, worn over lycra undergarments. Nightwear is a duvet-style snuggie, unless - horror of horrors - the horse has to sleep outside in a paddock or yard instead of inside a cosy stable, in which case it will need to be bundled into a padded overcoat as well.

Leisure legwear is also a must, sheepskin leg-warmers or fleecy leg bandages are currently fashionable.

The horse-about-town must also watch its diet. Bags of special-recipe horse feed are supplemented with vitamins, minerals, potions, oils, powders and secret ingredients to make their hooves grow, their coats shine and their muscles bulge and ripple.

This is topped with bales of designer horse hay grown from only the finest horse-friendly forage.

Some horses expect their hay to be soaked before they will eat it, some prefer theirs steamed. Hay must be eaten from a hay net (large or small holed depending on dietary requirements) or a hay bag.

So who does all this dressing and undressing and feeding and hay soaking?

Horses have servants these days. Sometimes these servants are called owners. Other times the owner-servants have a sub-species of servant called grooms. Either way, the horses' servants are expected to deliver food and liquid refreshment at regular intervals, clean up afterwards, change the horses' bedding and clothing and keep them brushed and polished at all times.

Horses these days have their own brands of shampoos and conditioners. They have hair dye. They have hoof polish and they have makeup.

On show-days things ramp up to a frenzy. The horses' servants are expected to be up before daylight, as they have a lot to do.

The noble horse will have had a shampoo and conditioner the day before, and probably a hot-oil treatment. On show morning they will need a hair-up. This involves plaiting their manes into many small pigtaileds and then rolling it into many tiny buns. Which should be stitched in place. With a needle and thread.

The rest of the horse will be brushed and then polished with horse-polish and a soft cloth.

Its hooves will be sandpapered, painted black and have an overcoat of clear gloss. If the horse has white on its legs the white hair will be shaved off and the white will be painted back on with horse paint. Yes there is such a thing. It also comes in black.

Once the horse is polished and painted, it has makeup applied. Yes makeup. Yes really.

Then it's dressed in shiny matching gear and ridden for - ooh - sometimes an hour, more or less. Then its servants undress and bathe it, often give it a massage and give its legs an ice treatment and feed it and put its jim-jams on and put it back to bed.

Yes really.

Of course there are variations ... showjumping horses don't necessarily have their hair in tiny buns and they wear sports-legwarmers and hats with ears in them. Dressage horses aren't allowed legwarmers in competition but they only have to compete for six minutes or so.

Show ponies go round and round for much longer than showjumpers or dressage horses but they get to wear the most makeup. And a wig. In their tails. No I'm not lying.

At the end of the day the horses are put to bed washed, dried, clothed, fed, massaged, polished, rehydrated, given their sports supplements and tucked in tightly.

Their grooms and owner-servants fall into bed fully clothed, sweaty, exhausted, hungry and still with their boots on.

Sometimes they will be clutching the spoils of the day .. a ribbon or two and an envelope with not enough money to cover their entry fees.

Is there something wrong here? Not if you're a horse. Horses have somehow gained the upper hand after centuries of servitude. Now they really are taking us for a ride.

Last but not least

