



**January/February (and a bit of March) 2019**



160km riders at North Island Champs

Gallop finish at South Island Champs



# Editorial

January was a month of really high temperatures. I'm sure I'm not the only one who has struggled with motivation to get out and train. For me this was also compounded by the wheels falling off my training plan a bit. All of that pales into insignificance however in light of what our people in the Nelson area have been dealing with. And then news of fires in other areas, with a suspicion of some being deliberately lit. Madness!! Best wishes to everyone in those areas and I'm sure we all have hopes for rain – in moderation. Ironically the early season in the South Island has been notable for an excess of rain.

In the North Island the weather played ball for Champs in the Wairarapa with great riding conditions. The South Island Champs also enjoyed good weather conditions and temperatures seem to have calmed down a bit in this past week. Must be Autumn!! Not much of the season left now. Its amazing how fast Nationals rolls around as soon as Christmas hits.

In this edition I've filched quite a lot of photos off various facebook feeds and comments from here and there as well. Thank you so much to all contributors, both knowing and unknowing. There are some great photos that get taken at our various events.

See you out there.

Daryl Owen



## ESNZ Endurance Board 2018

Lots of work going on for Board members currently. Jenny Weston was able to fit in a trip to Lausanne around her holidays to represent us with the FEI recently. This was very valuable. Jenny was able to get direct feedback about what is happening worldwide and have a direct input into discussions. Thanks to all our members who responded to the questionnaire. Your input meant that Jenny was able to go to the FEI with clear answers from our membership.

Board members have also been working hard on getting things in place for Nationals. Our National Championship event belongs to all of us and its made better by having the involvement of our membership. Many thanks to all who have helped to sell raffle tickets and helped to find sponsorship. So lots has been happening with the Board, and everyone is busy doing things.

The provisional calendar has been sent out to club committees for consultation. Planning for the AGM is next up. Its business as normal for the Board. Lots going on but not too much to report.

## Upcoming rides

### North Island 2018-2019

March

2/3 -

9/10 -King Country - Matiere /  
Wairarapa CTR NI Champs

16/17

23/24 Ruahine – Waiouru

30/31 AWEC – Te Atiu Creek

April

6/7 -

13/14

20/21 NATIONALS Taupo

27/28 -

May

4/5

11/12 - Waikato

18/19 - Forum - Taupo

### South Island 2018-2019

March

2/3 -

9/10 -

16/17

23/24 - Mt Nimrod

30/31

April

6/7 - Marlborough CTR

13/14

20/21 NATIONALS Taupo

27/28 - Marlborough CTR

May

4/5 - Nelson

11/12 Forum Christchurch

18/19

## The season thus far ...

**The Wairarapa Endurance and CTR club – Daisybank** – As always, endurance and CTR are often about the weather almost as much as about the riding. Despite strong pre-entries the weather forecast was a deterrent and it was a select group of people who ended up taking the field. This course always delivers a picturesque and flowing track



Saturday had both CTR and Endurance. Frank Aldridge returned to the CTR field and took the win in the 30km Open CTR, with Donna Cherry narrowly ahead of Sue Smith in the Intermediate 30km. Emma Watson finished well to take the Junior 30km win. In the 15km Novice CTR Jennifer Armstrong was a clear winner.

Endurance also had a presence on the Saturday with novice entries in the 40km, and also an Elevator two day novice 80km. Sunday saw the Open 80 riders head out, with Sean Trafford and Rivergum Dark Knight carrying on their





consistent performance this season to take the win. Sandra Warren and Vicki Whitehead followed soon after for second and third. Tayla Morris and RNZ Fordite were winners in the 60km Intermediate Junior class.

It was a good weekend and a fun start to the year for those who braved the promised heat. Thanks to vet Mel and to Frank for marking the track.

**Waikato club at Matiere** – Usually we are obsessively watching the weather for the rain forecast for this ride. This year we were watching out for the heat. Thankfully the weather turned out near perfect and the course was, always, stunning. This year course marker Sean Trafford had found some new track with lovely flowing sections, while still retaining the famed Matiere hill. A strong field in Sunday's 80km ride saw Zoe Neubert finishing just ahead of Jayden Loveridge for the Junior win, and Sean Trafford comfortably ahead of Anton Loveridge for first and second Senior. The 60km distance was all about Alix Rogers, while the 40km distance on both days was claimed by Miro Stud. With an eye to Champs events coming up this weekend was key for many in qualifying, with good numbers of novice entries. Kirsten Benson and Rowan Redmond flew the flag in CTR in the 25km and 40km.

### **North Island Champs –**

The Wairarapa Endurance and CTR club hosted the North Island championships at Whareama Domain from 1 to 3 February 2019. The Organising Committee had been working very hard in the lead-up to ensure a great event, backed up by many landowners and sponsors, who couldn't have been more supportive. The local business community rallied around the event, ensuring financial assistance with the many costs associated with running a championship event, and an impressive array of prizes, tangibly recognising the hard work and achievement of competitors.

By Friday afternoon ride base was fully set up and riders were camped under the trees around the edge of the picturesque domain. Vet lanes were hired from the local dressage group, an enormous vet and sponsors marquee loaned by Ravensdown, the 'Equidays horse' prominently displayed, along with sponsors signage, and potted plants arranged by the Whitehead family made for a very professional looking field of play. An unexpected treat was getting up to observe the first loop vetting to find the overseas vet had laid fairy lights up the trot lanes, which looked spectacular in the dark.

Three senior and one junior rider rode out into the night at 1am in the McCarthy Transport and Prydes Easifeed 160km classes. Unfortunately, Carla Barakat's Nina, ridden by Chinese rider Zhaoyi Cheng, vetted out early, leaving Pip Mutch on Mauku Bella and Sue Reid on Kowhai Martini to ride together the rest of the day. They rode kindly and were rewarded with successful completions in a time of 13:16:02, the win going to Pip who put on a last-minute spurt to cross the line ahead of Sue. The only junior starter, Ana Whitehead and Dundevale Nazecca crossed the line approximately half an hour later for a well-deserved win on a horse she and her family have brought along and trained from scratch and put in many, many of saddle time, much to the joy of her family, and fellow Wairarapa club members.

The other Saturday championship events were the House of Travel Masterton 100km senior, and Vet Services Wairarapa 100km junior classes. The senior class had some ups and downs; Sean Trafford and his young stallion Prince Eligani SPA were looking a shoe-in for a very comfortable win, when a disappointing course error left them riding for a completion only. Gemma Haywood and Roselea Royal Fire (Tri to her friends) seized the opportunity to move into the lead, heading out strongly on the last loop, closely followed by Don Sagar and Georgia Smith. Tri rose to the occasion and trotted into ride base looking happy and confident, and vetted through for the win, to the delight of her strapping team. 2nd went to Georgia (with Glenmore A'Compish later taking BC), 3rd to an overjoyed Sandy Marshall and Jamila-Two in their first 100km, and 4th to Hanna Whitehead taking over the ride on CR Sonatina from Mum Vicky who had been working extremely hard in the lead up and during the weekend.

The junior class was a four-way tussle, with the win eventually going to relatively new endurance competitor, Emma Watson, riding the experienced gelding Little Victory, followed by Jayden Loveridge and Tayla Morris, with a very unlucky Petria Haigh vetting out at the end. Sincere commiserations Petria, we've all been there and Nationals will be your day!



Sunday's feature event was the TIGL 120km senior class, with seven competitors lining up at 3.15am. Leader Pippa Roberts on the Sagar's Wai Totara Moon Star bolted clear of the field from the start and was never caught. They had a superb day to cross the line in 9:06:06, almost an hour clear of Sean Trafford and the classy stallion Rivergum Dark Knight in 2nd. The remaining riders mostly rode as a pack, with Allan Haigh plugging away determinedly further back and all were rewarded for sensible riding with a 100% qualification rate. There was a brief flurry and the sniff of a gallop finish for 3rd and 4th between Sandra Warren and Jane Ferguson, with Jane conceding the inside track and pulling back to ease up across the finish line, both riders overjoyed with their horses' performance. The vivacious Pip Ireland on her mare Sayfwood Oshaarnna won the junior 120km class, riding with a smile from start to finish.

The non-FEI championship 60km class is traditionally the speed event of the weekend, however Maureen Davie was the only senior competitor, riding quietly for the win and the championship rug on Sue Drinnan's Charm II, while the junior competitor vetted out on gait.

Other classes over the weekend were well supported with a number of new novice horses beginning their qualifying journey, and three complete newcomers to endurance crossing over from other disciplines to have a wonderful time in the 20km introductory grade. Their laughter could be heard from afar on course and we hope to welcome them back to future events.

Dad Chris was one of the stars of the weekend, traipsing 10km in the heat up hill and down dale, leading daughter Ashlea Watson on Candy for 1st in the lead rein class. Ashlea insisted on trotting Candy out herself; the large size discrepancy between the two leading to an 'awwww' moment from the vets and officials.

Our Chinese guest had a more successful 2nd day on David Marshall's Dahman Al Zayd in the Marshall Miller Farrier combined senior 80km class, though he had plenty of opportunity to demonstrate his considerable and sympathetic riding skills (!).

Officials and vets came from Botswana, Malaysia, the United States, Costa Rica and of course our New Zealand endurance family and all enjoyed the weekend. It was a highly pleasant championship event, with enormous local business and community backing, and a supportive, encouraging atmosphere. Many comments were heard about it being one of the best championship events in years, which is a testament to the hard work of the organising committee for putting on such a great weekend.



**Waikato – at Hikumutu** – returning to the King Country again the weather forecast, again, promised a little rain. It eventuated to exactly that. A little rain that softened the ground and kept temperatures down. This is the third year of running this event, and each conditions have been different. Again, this event was key for some in qualifying for upcoming Champs events. Jane Ferguson made the trip north from the Wairarapa for the 40km CTR and finished well for the win in the Open 40km CTR. Changing codes, Patricia Ireland also rode CTR with a good finish in the 25km Intermediate CTR. Saturday's 40km Endurance was won by Rowan Redmond in the junior division, with Ruth Dawber winning the senior event. Amanda McConachy also made the trip north and finished second in the 40km just ahead of Stu Wakeling. Sunday's 80km again saw the Miro team having a good weekend. Mike Bragg took the win. Allan Haigh, making the trip from Auckland Woodhill club, took second place with Ruth Dawber taking her second ribbon for the weekend in third. The 62km distance was all about the Makahiwi team. Zoe Neubert took line honours in the junior division and Maureen Davie (claiming Makahwi Phoenix back for a day) took the senior title.

**King Country – Matiere** -A supreme effort saw King Country club pick up this ride date at very short notice and pull together a stunning ride at a new venue in Matiere. Les and Maureen Davie pulled together a track that was both very scenic and very challenging. Rain – yes, actual rain – had fallen as they were marking the trail and some of the hills started out a bit slippery for the early morning start, making riders exercising caution and giving it the respect it was due. Near perfect conditions however saw the track improving all day long. In a fitting end to her New Zealand stay, Kristina Lautenschultz took a decisive and satisfying win in the 80km Senior event on Vigar Cassidy. Kristina flew home to Europe two days later. Bon voyage Kristina and here's hoping we see you back at some point. Daryl Owen and Miro Lugh took second place with Allan Haigh travelling down from Auckland to ride for Team Miro finishing third on Miro Bay Plenty. Jayden Loveridge and Mizraim Florence were at their consistent best to win the Junior 80km. Congratulations to Alix Rogers getting her young stallion Supre Ramiro through to Open.



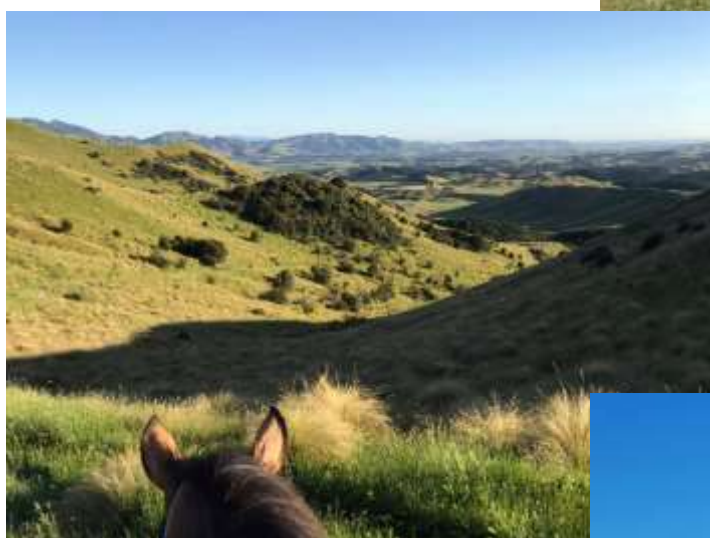
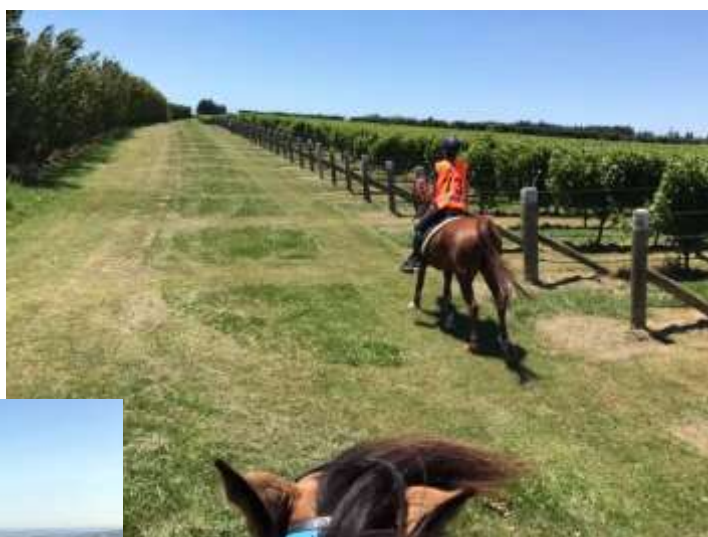
Another consistent team is that of Maureen Davie and Makahiwi Phoenix, laying claim to the 60km distance, with Sandy Marshall taking second place on Jamila Two. Zoe Neubert and Makahiwi Cercie took the junior 60km win.

The 40km leaders were a happy group of friends, with Pip Mutch crossing the line first on Mauku Bella, followed by Robert Reid on Mauku Waheed and Susan Reid on Kowhai Martini.

Congratulations to all riders and also to the organising committee for a well run and very enjoyable ride. Welcome back King Country!!

### **Marlborough –Richmond Brook -**

Marlborough's January event offered endurance on the Saturday and CTR on Sunday. Linda Harmon and MF Shaheen blitzed the field in the 80km with a very fast time to take the win. Alison Higgins was first across the line in the 40km and there were a good number of novice entries for the day as well.



Sunday was a day for CTR. The weather was absolutely stunning, and so were the views. Class winners for the day were Dianne Penwarden, Angela Ferusson, Linda Kenney, Angela Sloane and Heidi Bulfin.



**Mackenzie – Ashwick Flat – Helen Graham had this to say after the Mackenzie Club ride in January.**

THANK YOU!! A huge thank you to each and every one of you that contributed to making this weekend of competitions a success 🙌.

To the competitors that travelled from far and wide to be a part of this weekend's event we appreciate your support so much. It sure is something pretty special to be able to run an event that caters not only for those that have represented the sport of Endurance at an International 4\* level, young riders still taking advantage of a lead rein, Grade 7 dressage horses, pro am show jump riders, and everyone else in between! The number of smiles witnessed over the weekend was awesome to see and I hope you all had a great time!



Again a huge thank you to the 10 generous land owners that so kindly allowed us to use their properties as part of the track. These farmers went above

and beyond to ensure the ride was as much a success as possible. Not only moving stock out of our way over the weekend but also altering grazing during wetter periods to help minimize the pugging on course, ensuring access to drinking water on route, opening gates, the list is endless. It is a true privilege to have access to these amazing properties and receive such genuine hospitality.



A huge thanks must also be given to the massive contribution made by all the members of the MacKenzie Endurance Club. With particular mention to Vanessa Jane Tiffen who spent countless hours designing and

marking a course that provided not only a spectacular flowing 80km track with an epic amount of variation, but also loops that delivered a great ride for those opting for the shorter single loop distances. Louise Holmes also donating a limitless amount of time to the running of the ride in order to guarantee a successful event.



It was great to see so many new faces over the weekend and we hope to catch up with you all again at our next ride at Clayton Station on the 16/17th of February. I will get some more details up about this event just as soon as we get a few more ducks lined up ☐. Until then happy riding everyone!! ☐

Speechless 😊 which is totally unusual ☐

The team behind this awesome club is a good place, you are an amazing bunch of people chipping in to make it all happen. Dave, jack of all trades and I reckon master of most of them 😊 Hannah, such a worker, always so happy and getting great at just doing “what ya want” ah Han ☐



seat 🪑 □ □ Penelope and Julie who  
chipped in behind the scenes but  
couldn't be there in the weekend!  
Andrea, who is pretty professional  
behind the computer 💻 □

Cathy, super snapper ☐ your a  for giving up your time to add to people's memories ☐

Sooty and Emma,         your both bloody 

To all the wonderful competitors, your smiles and gratitude keep us all going, it's so lovely to watch the new and not so new enjoying a wonderful family sport! I think I got up to about 12 or 13 families when I had a quick count up, out there competing. There's not to many sports that are as family oriented 🐾

The Forestry was pretty special, and added a real point of difference for Canterbury, thank you to Rayonier for allowing us in there, and to you all for looking after it so well 🙌🙌🙌

We're incredibly lucky to have you all, and thank you everyone for all you do, competitors, crew, volunteers, vets, landowners, sponsors alike! 🧡

That's the regular season done and dusted for Canterbury, however the neighbors backyards are still pretty busy, I'll keep you up to date with those, then we'll be back with the winter series



**Marlborough – at The Narrows** – Marlborough's February CTR event was well supported, with a number of people taking the opportunity to ride both days. Well done to all. Photos of Marlborough rides always make me wish I lived closer so that I could come and join you all.





**Mackenzie – Clayton Station** – Helen Graham again had this to say after the event.

So much awesome! 🙌 Is pretty much the only words I have to sum up the weekend the Mackenzie Endurance and CTR Club had at Clayton Station. 🏔️

The track, so meticulously marked and designed by the ultra-committed Alister and [Louise Holmes](#), was absolutely nothing short of stunning. What a true privilege and such a treat to have access to this country and a slight glimpse of the slick forward-thinking business



that is run here by Hamish and Anna Orbell. An enormous thanks to all these guys for absolutely everything that was put into actually make this event happen. What total legends!!

Thank you again so much to everyone that popped down and supported the event, we hope you all had a fantastic time. A huge thanks to the small and hard-working team that that never fail to pull together and keep the ball rolling at these events. The Mackenzie Endurance club members, Wendy Farnell from Mt Nimrod Endurance Riders Club helping us out as day secretary, Kevin James , also from Mt Nimrod TD'ing the track, Dave Hadler from Canterbury Endurance & Trail Riding ,





Glenda from Aorangi Vets and absolutely every single person that jumped in and helped out over the couple of days. We are just so lucky to have you all involved and thank you all so much!!

**We have also had the North Island CTR Champs run by Wairarapa club and the South Island Champs run by Canterbury**

### **2019 South Island Endurance and CTR Championships 2 nd and 3rd March, Clayton Station, Fairlie**

(Photos by Country Road photography) *Text By Ursula Keenan*

Endurance Report Clatyon Station, what can we say! What a truly magnificent venue to host a very swiftly put together Championship. The wonderful hosts, organising committee, track markers, vets, officials and volunteers were all in top form! A venue like this seems to bring the best out in Endurance.

From start to finish the 120km event was led by 71-year-old, Linda Harmon on her lovely homebred gelding, MF Shaheen.



On a track that was as spectacular as it was technical, Linda and Barney looked super all day, eventually completing the course in 10:04:48. Second went to Southland's Lisa Simpson and another homebred gelding, Summersdale About Time, with Craig Middleton and Sunny Brae Red Lace rounding out the top three. Local sisters Jorja and Kate James took out first and second respectively in the 100km Junior Event. Jorja and her horse Glendaar Zendaya were fresh off a win 2 weeks earlier at the same venue and completed the 100km in 7:33:51, with Kate

just under an hour behind on the seasoned Chartei.

The 80km event belonged mostly to the West Coasters, with a lone Cantab in the mix and man did they make a finish of it! Bill Croft and his bay, Hine Hukaterere never looked too much like losing, with Paula Kerr a comfortable second and Hannah Ballantyne rounding out the placings in third. The winning time was 7:17:10. The Intermediate Championship was competed for over 64km. Rachel Stocks and BTR Windsong were the winners of this event,



second going to Marga Marshall and BG Iman. Nicole Crawford also had a successful day, finishing first in the Junior competition with Sunny Brae Elise. There were also several 40 Intermediate and Novice competitors on Saturday, along with a handful of 80 and 40km competitors on Sunday, making up a total of 33 competitors for the Endurance Competition. Best Conditioned Horse was awarded as follows: 120KM MF Shaheen 100KM JY Glendaar Zendya 80KM Kahuna Wispa 64KM BTR Windsong 64KM JY Sunny Brae Elise



### **South Island Championships 2019 CTR Report** *Text by Andrea Rigby*

After a last-minute change from Nelson to McKenzie country due to the terrible fires near Nelson, the South Island Championships were full steam ahead the weekend of 2-3 March 2019. The crew who pulled this together were champions before it started! The event was held at Clayton Station, near Fairlie, where we were spoilt with a spectacular amount of varied terrain and wonderful hosts.

The Competitive Trail Riding (CTR) all kicked off on the Sunday with a fantastic turn out of about 40 competitors across the different classes. There were three championship rides of 64km open, 40km intermediate and 40km junior, and three novice rides of 24km, 16km and 5km lead rein. The first of the championship rides started out at 8.00am with the novice rides following from 11.00am. Such a fantastic turn out of riders and great to see the novice rides included at a champion event.



The day was a beauty with the 64km and 40km riders climbing the hills through the early morning cloud. Once on the hill tops, riders were treated to amazing 360degree views across the hills and down to the valleys. The day started to heat up quickly and the great forward thinking of the track markers meant that water was available in plentiful supply and in good spots. The horses were very grateful! The 40km loop was a fun and challenging track with long uphill climbs and long downhill descents but with lots of flat ground in between to really chug along to make up any time lost on the hills. I'm sure there are plenty of CTR riders out there who know what that is like! All riders were truly spoilt by the quality of the terrain, the tracks and the views. Results for the championship rides were as follows: 64km open – 1 st - Jenna Underwood, 2nd - Abbie Mcleod, 3rd - Debby Burson 40km intermediate – 1 st - Rena Johnsen, 2nd - Rosey Deakin, 3rd - Andrea Rigby 40km junior – 1 st – Abigail Enstrom, 2nd – Adam Enstrom Best timed rider – Andrea Rigby Team event – Tardy Trio (Jenna Underwood, Abbie Mcleod, Andrea Rigby) A spectacular event with lots of happy faces! Hats off to the crew and helpers who organised the event at such short notice. It wouldn't have happened without you.



## ESNZ Endurance North Island CTR championships – Wairarapa 10 March 2019

This year the Wairarapa club decided to run the North Island CTR championships separately from endurance champs hosted at Whareama early in February. This enabled endurance and CTR riders to mix and match disciplines, and in some cases, compete in two championship events just five weeks apart.

Black Rock is traditionally a tough hill ride, and usually hot and dry. This year our track markers had sourced new country making for a very different ride, and one that was even more challenging; an excellent workout for combinations training for National champs at Easter. Drought conditions had given way a few days before, making for a slightly slippery track in places, though generally it held up well; however the sole remaining open rider to take on the course twice found the going tougher on the 2<sup>nd</sup> loop.

Weather conditions deteriorated throughout the day with steady drizzle and thick fog up on the heights making conditions a true endurance test. Riders were in places reduced to hunting for quad bike tracks (where visible) to find the next marker as visibility was down to 5 to 10 metres at times. On a fine day there would be unsurpassed views over the Wairarapa and I know I'd really love to ride the track again in sunshine.



The organising committee's decision to run CTR champs separately was rewarded with an excellent turnout of riders ranging from Ashlea Watson in the 6km lead-rein class (a big ask for Dad Chris on foot on the hills), to Angela Ibbotson and Jane Ferguson in the 60km open championship.

Jane and Angela were first out at 8.30am, with both horses rising to the occasion and tackling the taxing track with aplomb. It was a serious workout with some knarly tracks testing the horses sure-footedness, fitness, and strength. A climb up towards the Rangitumau trig late in the loop had both horses taking it in turns to do the hard yards in front, though Daagir's greater experience had him confidently leading on all the downhill. Unfortunately Angela was carrying an injury from carting baleage a few days out and chose to withdraw in the hold after 30km, leaving Jane and Denny to head out into the mist on their own. It was a tough slog on an increasingly unmotivated horse (he is notoriously lazy on his own), but they both dug deep to finish and vet through for a hard-earned and

long wished-for championship title.



The intermediate championship class was closely fought with nine entries duelling it out. Long-standing Wairarapa club member Sue Smith, on the excellent CTR horse Taurere Dyani were the worthy winners, on a top score of 87. She was followed 6 points back in 2<sup>nd</sup> by Frank Aldridge, and it was great to see Mystica Bandito back out competing in fine form. 3<sup>rd</sup> was Gemma Haywood and Roselea Royal Fire, backing up from their 100km win at Whareama.



Excellent results in the 30km intermediate champs class meant the teams trophy was won by Team Tararua, consisting of Sue Smith, Frank Aldridge and Jenny Champion. Jenny also took the trophy closest to optimum time, a top-notch 22 seconds. The groomed and turned-out trophy went to an immaculate Little Victory, though I'm sure Pip Ireland's Oshy must have been a close 2<sup>nd</sup> (how she had her so fluorescent white after riding I'd like to know).

Thanks must go to our ground jury and ground crew, who once again gave up their time to ensure our events can run, along with generous sponsors including PGG Wrightson, Ethical Agents, and more. Thanks also to riders who stayed for prizegiving to acknowledge our crew, sponsors and landowners, and the achievements of all winners, placegetters, and qualifiers.

The junior class was also closely contested by three participants, with Grace Blyth on Lynda Kessell's KD Migal (who has been tough to beat this year) perhaps the pre-event favourites. However some unfortunate early time faults on a fit horse meant they settled for the 3<sup>rd</sup> placed sash, with an overjoyed Megan Perrott on Kyrewood Miss Marlie coming through for the win by a single point from Emma Watson and Little Victory, also backing up from their 1<sup>st</sup> in the 100km junior class early February.

Non-championship classes were very well supported, particularly given the less than ideal weather in the lead-up. We were happy to see lots of riders enjoying the day in the 10km introductory class which was won by a first-time Wairarapa attendee, Lucy Klee on Woodrow Gypsy Moth.



for

It was a fantastic end to a very big season for the club, and we look forward to welcoming you all back again for our September ride, which we hope will be at a new location. Happy trails and good luck for National champs!

## Points tables have been updated

Currently tied for first place in the Senior Horse and Rider table are Pip Mutch on Mauku Bella and Sandra Warren on Craig Royston Zarita, with Sean Trafford not far behind. Jayden Loveridge and Mizraim Florence head up the Junior Horse and Rider, closely followed by Ana Whitehead and Dundevale Nazecca.

The Intermediate series has Kelsey Gaiger and Shardan Tala just ahead of Lisa Southon and Tararua Sharman. The competition in the Junior Intermediate series is very close, with Zoe Neubert and Makahiwi Cercie less than a point ahead of Tayla Morris and RNZ Fordite.

In CTR Jenna Underwood and Colorado Skye have a commanding lead in the Open Horse and Rider table. Angela Sloane and El Etruscan head up the Intermediate Horse and Rider, and Grace Blyth and KD Migal are well ahead in the Junior Horse and Rider table. In the Novice Horse and Rider Angela Fergusson and Mytiko hold the lead spot as at the mid-February.

The Open CTR Distance Horse table sees Euralea Eva and Silands Double Delight currently tied for first, while El Etruscan has a solid lead in the Intermediate table. KD Migal is well ahead in the Junior table. Novice Distance CTR rider has Angela Fergusson holding the lead at this point.

There are still a few rides to come and a lot can change between now and the end of season. Could your plan for the end of the season see changes to the end of year trophies?

## And from one of our riders

### Toft Endurance ESNZ Endurance North Island Endurance Championships 2019

#### ***A personal story***

When Daryl asked me for a contribution to *The Distance*, I thought rather than writing a 3<sup>rd</sup> 'results' article (the other two already published on the ESNZ website and Endurance World), I thought people might like to read my experience of the weekend in the TIGL 120km senior class instead? For those who'd like a more traditional write-up, you can read about the event at: <https://www.nzequestrian.org.nz/2019/02/te-esnz-endurance-north-island-championships-a-success>

I was on the organising committee for the event, and together with my fellow members, had been working hard for many months in the lead-up to ensure a successful champs so it was a huge relief to eventually make it to ride base with Denny on the Friday, both intact. Many of our OC members hadn't had the best luck this season, and so I felt privileged to actually be riding, and not working.

Very hot weather in the lead-up had thankfully shifted to slightly cooler temperatures by Saturday morning which I was glad about, having hit the wall badly not far from the end in a hot, tough Norths in my last

120km ride a year previously. I'd been working more on my fitness this year, along with better hydration and electrolyting of myself. Both Denny and I had an excellent season lead-up with plenty of steady, careful qualifiers, including a trip to Marlborough (to get our 1\*), and another 80km at Daisybank Station a month out. I was feeling quietly confident, and better prepared mentally (always a biggie for me as I tend to have considerable self-doubt when it comes to the big rides).

Denny vetted in beautifully on Saturday afternoon, garnering a compliment from Sharon du Plessis (our PGJ) despite my deprecating comment about his weight. He was his usual 'well covered' self – he's a very good doer, and it usually takes a full 120km to trim him down and have him looking somewhat respectable.

We crossed the start line at 3.15am in a pack of 7, the front runner (Pippa Roberts on Wai Totara Moon Star) was very quickly out of sight (crossing the start line was the most we saw of her all day) and Denny moved to his favoured night time position of leading the following bunch. I really like it too as we can set the pace (generally people seem happy with my night time speed which always surprises me) and he's relaxed and happy. The loop rode well, with a decent amount of work in the 30km, but he was taking on water early which was awesome.



With the new trial vetting parameters I took it carefully into the vet ring all day with more strapping than usual but he vetted through well and got stuck into his feed in the hold. I've never seen him so hungry, he polished off one feed, most of a 2nd, and then got stuck into his hay. I was a little late tacking up and getting to the start line, so I headed out pretty fast to chase down riders ahead as I didn't want to be stuck on my own with 90km still to go. Apparently Murray Smith wondered who was riding like a demon possessed up the home straight – I'm not exactly known for my speedy riding!

The night loop rode well in daytime, with five of us mainly sticking together, Pippa well ahead, and Allan behind. Den was looking for grass, and again taking on water early so I was feeling super happy. Another confident vetting, and another hold, though he wasn't quite so ravenous this time.

Again I put the foot down out of the start, and Cherry and I chased until we caught up with Andrea, Sean and Sandra and rode the rest of the loop together (blue loop this time). This loop didn't have as much hill, but was hot and with the recent dry, hard underfoot so I was nursing him as much as I could. We cruised around together at a very consistent pace across our loops, taking lots of trough and grass breaks as we all had our eye on strong qualifiers and prepping horses for National champs. We stopped at a strapping point to hose off our horses, and Sean and Knight made a break at this point and moved on ahead.

Another good vetting, with his first B for the day after the 3rd loop (for gut which made me chuckle given how much grass he had in his belly). Otherwise, again all As and 1s across the board which was awesome after 90km.

Andrea and I were first into the vet ring from our group and I missed my out-time countdown so she was a little ahead, but I clucked at Den and he said no worries and promptly caught up on the other side of the domain. Fortuitously as it turned out when we hit the road in time to meet an oncoming motorbike club on Langdale Rd. Poor Pumpkin's eyes were on stalks but Den is an old hand with traffic and led the way while they roared past. Andrea and I rode about 2-3km together, and she was extremely encouraging about my



national goals. Cherry and Sandra soon caught up and again our happy little pack had a lovely time cruising round the final 30km.

I was enjoying it so much I kept mentally pinching myself - what a difference a year makes! The last few kms weren't at all torturous and my adrenalin was pumping. Den was fit, happy and sound as a bell, and I was feeling amazingly good. The last 5km I started getting excited, thinking we're really going to do it, but not counting my chickens. I wasn't sure if we were going to cross the line together, but about 1km from home Sandra moved to the front and upped the pace and so I thought 'damn it, I'm going with her'. I was on her heels all down the road and we were at a canter by the time we headed back into ride base. I hadn't decided if I was going to challenge the finish and then thought, I have a lot of horse underneath me, we're going to go for it. So I clucked at Denny, gave him a little nudge and he responded instantly and broke into a gallop. Sandra heard us, as did Rita, and matched us. It was a heap of fun, but she was on the inside and I quickly realised having the outside line I wasn't going to be able to overtake so eased Den back for the finish for 4<sup>th</sup> place. I think we were both smiling!

He vetted in amazingly much to my delight, with a foot perfect final trot up (As for gait all day!) and excellent metabolics. I don't think there's anything that can match the relief, pride and joy of a good qualification after months of preparation, hard work, planning and execution. I owe so much to the Haywood family, esp Gemma who has been a fabulous mentor, friend, and training buddy, along with supplier of awesome KER products that are integral to Denny's performance. It's been a long journey to get to where we are, and to feel like I was finally 'deserving' of running with the big kids meant the world.

After a few weeks rest, we started back into work and refined plans for the remainder of the season; but I know I have a 160km horse in my paddock - and I'm even starting to dream - a 160km rider in my house!

*Jane Ferguson*

## Officials

Following the various officials courses this season, and the FEI courses, there have been a number of people working at getting their qualifications ticked off. Great to have a new cohort of enthusiastic officials coming through. I'm sure there are others that I've missed. Congrats to all.

New Level I stewards are Jane Ferguson, Jo Foster, Jo Loveridge and Susan O'Brien.

Congratulations to Paula Adams on being promoted to FEI 2\* Judge. Sue Billigheimer has been promoted to 3\* Judge and Heidi Bulfin has been promoted to 4\* Judge.

And also to Andrea Rigby and Louise Holmes on their promotion to National Judges. Caroline Houghton, Kym Gough, Paula Adams and Rachel Stocks are also now National Technical Delegates.

Congratulations on your promotions ladies and thank you for the time and commitment you put into our sport.

## Update on FEI

The following is Jenny Weston's report from a conference with the FEI

Today was the opportunity for representatives from a number of National Federations to speak to the Temporary Endurance Committee and to provide feedback about what in the current rules is and isn't working in endurance and what we see as a way forward to improve the horse welfare outcomes and therefore the image of the sport. It is a difficult task as the same rules really have to be applied in all areas and what may work in one country may be impossible to implement in others.

### Background

The Temporary Endurance Committee (TEC) was set up in October 2018 following the resignation of the Chair of the Endurance Committee and with legal proceedings against the Deputy Chair pending. The remit of the TEC was to urgently assess the issues currently affecting the sport of Endurance and carry out an in-depth review of the rules in order to identify the most effective way of bringing the discipline back to its original roots of Endurance riding as opposed to Endurance racing, with horse welfare and horsemanship at its core, while still maintaining the competitive aspect of the sport.

The members of the TEC are:

- Sarah Coombs (Chair) a very experienced Endurance vet from Great Britain. Sarah actually told me last night that her first endurance vetting ever was in Morrinsville and she spent some years working in the Waikato.
- Tarek Taher from Saudi Arabia, an international Endurance athlete and recently-elected by his peers as a member of the FEI Athletes' Committee. He's been very active on facebook and many of you will be following him.
- Pieter Wiersinga, chef d'équipe of the Dutch Endurance team, a Police Commissioner and former Head of the Mounted Police in the Netherlands
- Valerie Kanavy (USA) who twice won individual gold at WEG in 1994 and 1998; she was a member of the FEI Athletes' Committee and the Athletes' Representative on the Endurance Committee for the four-year term 2014-2018
- Dr Tim Parkin (GBR), who heads up the scientific research conducted at the University of Glasgow as part of the FEI's Global Endurance injuries Study (GEIS).
- Rocio Echeverri from Costa Rica was on the previous Endurance Committee and remains as part of the TEC. She was Foreign Judge at our recent North Island Champs and was unable to attend this meeting in Lausanne as she has surgery scheduled to repair her broken ankle (which she was recovering from when she visited us).

FEI's 2nd Vice President Mark Samuel (CAN) is the FEI Board Liaison to the TEC and has also been attending all their meetings will also be involved in the work of the Temporary Committee.

### **Meeting with Stakeholders**

The remit for today's meeting was that the TEC would listen to the views of representatives from the NFs and in particular they wanted feedback about some possible areas for change:

- Qualification system for next level
- Qualification for FEI championship events
- Mandatory Rest Periods
- Track design – natural features, number of loops, access to water, proximity of cars
- Elimination codes
- Heart rate and presentation times
- Rider weight
- Increased sanctions for positive drug tests
- Set limit on number of competitors per class

- Continuous crewing
- Any other topic which the delegates believe is important

The survey that the Board distributed to ESNZ Endurance club members was aimed at seeking your views on these points so that they could be brought to this meeting. The anonymised results from the survey (from ESNZ members) are attached along with the comments people provided so that you can see what everyone else thought. Most people had a strong preference for no change in most of the areas and changes about rider weight were the most divided with the majority being in favour of no change.

Equestrian Australia were not able to send anyone to the meeting and so I was in contact with Anne Barnes in the lead up to this meeting to be able to also represent their views (which were very much in line with our own).

All attendees were invited to join the TEC and senior staff from FEI Lausanne for dinner on the Wednesday night and then today (21<sup>st</sup> February) was set aside for the TEC to meet with small groups of people from the different regions for approximately 2 hours each group. I also took the opportunity to meet with delegates from other NFs to exchange views and the majority of representatives were in agreement on most areas and particularly that there are two very different sports developing endurance riding and endurance racing.

I was one of four representatives from Group VIII, along with representatives from Malaysia, India and Thailand. We were mostly in agreement on the issues. One problem for Thailand and Malaysia is that their humidity and the fact that they mostly use local horses for competition (not Arabs) makes it difficult for them to meet HR criteria and any reduction in HR or presentation time would mean that most would not qualify. I gather that most of the other Group representatives were saying much the same “enforce the current rules”. There were 6 representatives from Europe, 3 from North America, 3 from South America, five from Group VII and one from Namibia. There was also another small group of stakeholders including the International Association of Endurance Event Organizers and World Horse Welfare.

Specific points I made on behalf of ESNZ included:

- Enforce the current rules and in particular, reference to the Code of Conduct for Horse Welfare should be used rather than trying to create new rules to cover every eventuality
- Riders and all involved in the sport need to take personal responsibility for what is happening in the sport; can we better recognise and celebrate achievements such as multiple years in competition, best conditioned, partnerships etc?
- The problems with requiring Mandatory Rest Periods on the shorter distance CEN events (just for distance completed, agreed that MRP should be put in place for horses that fail to qualify)
- Additional MRP for horses eliminated for metabolic reasons
- The unintended consequences of some of the rules in countries like New Zealand e.g. the proposed changes to the stabling and yarding rules (in the Veterinary Regulations)
- Ensure that officials are enabled to do their job correctly and be able to report officials who don't enforce the rules
- More targeted drug testing and higher penalties for those involved
- Re-introduce the proposed “speeding fine” of +7 days MRP for speeds  $\geq 20$  km/hr
- I was also able to provide data about the average and winning speeds for our competitions and the completion rates to illustrate why we don't really have any problems that need controlling



Although there wasn't unanimous agreement in the survey on all of these points, I had to represent the majority view. Whether or not any of these suggestions will make it through to the rules is another thing. It was also agreed that adding in new rules every season also wasn't helping our sport!

The prevalent opinion was that there was very little need for further changes to the rules and that mostly the rules we have are sufficient but they just need to be enforced. More rules would likely make the sport not viable in some parts of the world and particularly in the smaller countries. It was recognised that some of the newly introduced rules have not had the desired effect in improving horse welfare and that they have damaged the sport in some countries due to the cost of compliance.

One person's comment in our survey pretty much summed it up "Simplify the rules and enforce them. Read the definition of endurance and the Code of Conduct for the welfare of the horse – this defines our sport". Well done whoever that was.

Both Tarek Taher and Sarah Coombs would love to come and visit NZ – one to ride and another to vet at one of our events. Thanks to everyone who filled out the survey and thank you to ESNZ and the Endurance Board for supporting me to represent us at this meeting. It was fortunate that I was able to change some flights that were already booked and paid for which kept the cost of attending down. The TEC are having their monthly meeting the following day (22<sup>nd</sup> February) and will be taking all of the feedback on board as they move forward with re-defining our sport. The TEC will have another meeting in March and then there will be the Sports Forum in April which will include a whole day dedicated to endurance.

*Jenny Weston*

Prior to the Lausanne meeting a survey was held to ensure the views ESNZ Endurance members would be represented. Results of the survey can be viewed [here](#)

## Junior Camp coming up

Queen's Birthday Weekend 1 st – 2 nd June 2019 Venue: National Equestrian Centre, Rapids Road, Taupo

Open to all ESNZ registered Junior/youth riders who have done 40km or more. Juniors under the age of 14 can use smaller rides to total 40km. Riders must also be a member of an ESNZ Endurance affiliate club. Please advise by 30th April if you are attending. Costs will depend on how many are attending but will be minimal. The camp is to help our young riders gain as much information and help as they need to achieve their own goals. Riders and horses need to arrive Friday night or early Saturday morning for a 9am start, departing on Monday morning. Parents and Caregivers will be staying at their own cost. Camping \$10 per day Additional horses: \$15 paddock per day \$25 stable per day \$10 open pen per day Please reply to Pip Mutch Email: [pipmutch@farmside.co.nz](mailto:pipmutch@farmside.co.nz) Phone: 06 762 5893

## Photo competition and raffle

There is a raffle out and about at the moment to raise funds for Nationals. Our sponsorship people have done a great job with getting this great raffle up and running. \$10 per ticket and first prize is a Smart LED TV. If you don't know where to get a ticket just ask a Board member and we can find you a book or two I'm sure.

**ESNZ 2019 ENDURANCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS RAFFLE FUNDRAISER**



**ENDURANCE**

Tickets \$10 each

Contact Sue Billigheimer  
[a.ross@scorch.co.nz](mailto:a.ross@scorch.co.nz)

Raffle drawn at ESNZ Endurance National Championships 21<sup>st</sup> April @4pm.  
 Winners notified by phone or e-mail for collection at your local Noel Leeming Store.

1000 Tickets Available

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize Value \$2500.00**  
**Smart LED Television and Sound Bar**



**2<sup>nd</sup> Place Value \$1250.00**  
**Home Theatre**



**3<sup>rd</sup> Prize Value \$500.00**  
**Smartwatch**

**4<sup>th</sup> Prize Value \$500.00**  
**Smartphone**

Also don't forget to get your photos in for the photo competition. There are some great photos being posted, and you don't have to be an amazing professional like Sarah Hamer. Even us happy snappers get lucky with some great shots. Photos that tell a story are wonderful. One more championship event to come so get your cameras and phones out and see what you get.

**ESNZ ENDURANCE 2019 PHOTO COMPETITION**

We all love our sport for a million different reasons, so let's capture some of what makes our sport so amazing in photo!!

- To Enter: Take a photo at one of our 3 championship events, email it to [enduranceentr@gmail.com](mailto:enduranceentr@gmail.com) By Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April
- Photographs will be judged and the top 4 from each event will then be posted to Facebook for public voting.
- Some awesome prizes to be won: Winner will receive their very own trophy, the winning photo in 20x30 Canvas print, also up for grabs - Dunstan feed, and more.

(Maximum of 2 entries per person, photos may also be used for a calendar and ESNZ Endurance publicity purposes)

Photo credits - David Hadler, Cathy Nolan, Caroline Lewin - Seahorse Photography & Debbie Morris



I wrote this for publication about six years ago, but it's a subject that comes up often and I was asked for it again just last week

## Good manners are never out of place

By Daryl Owen

Of all the competitive disciplines horse riders can take part in, Endurance has to be one of the most relaxed and informal. There's no need for pristine white jodhpurs and polished riding boots. There's no need to spend hours grooming and plaiting up, because there's no one judging you on what you look like. The prettiest, most expensive horses with the best breeding are not necessarily the most successful. Performance and horsemanship are what really count in this game.

There are still obviously rules that must be followed, and one set of rules that are not specified and written down are those surrounding riding etiquette. The word 'etiquette' brings up visions of society ladies drinking tea, but in endurance terms it generally means showing consideration for other riders. The following is a basic list in no particular order.

- 1 If someone has been kind enough to open a gate, wait until they are safely finished closing it and are remounted before moving off.
- 2 Often the person who has opened the gate was at the front of the group and opening the gate has put them at the back. If they wish to resume the lead, then let them move back up to the front.
- 3 If riding in a group take turns opening gates instead of letting one person do it all the time (unless you have an agreement otherwise). Remember to say thank you.
- 4 At water troughs have consideration for others and don't move off until all the horses have finished drinking. Once your horse has finished drinking move out of the way so others can get in. If your horse plays in the water (as mine does) pull him out of it before he can put other horses off.
- 5 It sounds obvious, but don't ride right up behind other horses. Even the most well mannered horse can throw a kick if they get stepped on from behind. Allow adequate space to protect both your own horse and others.
- 6 Similarly, don't use another horse as brakes. Slow your horse up well before catching up to the rider in front so that you don't crash into them. Tailgating is even more irritating on a horse than it is in a car.
- 7 OK, so you're picking up speed a little and you are about to overtake horses in front of you. Make sure you have space to safely pass and ask if its OK for you to pass. Let them know well in advance. Often a rider in a less competitive ride may not be aware of anyone coming. They may want to prepare their horse a little so they don't get overexcited or spooky. Similarly a young or inexperienced rider may be more confident if you pass slowly. No one wants to see a child hit the ground because someone galloped past them and spooked a pony.



- 8 Now that you've passed someone, don't slow down in front of them. Most drivers have experienced a certain degree of irritation at those drivers who speed up in passing lanes and then slow down again at the end of it. The same goes on an endurance track. If you are moving faster, then overtake safely (as above) and keep moving .
- 9 Similarly, if someone is coming up faster behind you pull over to let them pass safely as soon as you can. Don't sit in front of them and force them to slow down.
- 10 If another rider is having issues getting their horse settled you might offer to stay with them until such time as the horse is moving along better. If you are not racing for the front and the time doesn't matter, helping someone in this way might mean the difference between their having a great day and coming back for more, or giving up.
- 11 If you find yourself riding with someone who is travelling at a different speed than you want to be going, tell them that you are going to slow down a bit so they don't feel obligated to stay with you. If you are wanting to crack on and speed up a bit, tell them so before you go galloping off.
- 12 If you have a mare, particularly a mare in season, be aware of stallions and keep clear. Usually the stallion is very well mannered but a mare too close may create a problem. This applies around pens at base as well. Stallions usually wear a blue ribbon in their tail and have an S tag on their halter or bridle.
- 13 Be mindful of stock anywhere near the course. Those heifers might be in a different paddock, but that doesn't mean you won't push them through a fence if you come up and create a stampede. Move carefully around any stock until safely past them.
- 14 Course markers and ride organisers spend a lot of time and energy creating an event for you to compete at. What takes you four hours to whizz around has probably taken at least a month of hard work marking tracks, cutting scrub, stressing over issues with officialdom, organising volunteers to crew, and worrying about the weather and whether anyone will turn up. Positive feedback and appreciation on your part is likely to lead to more rides being held for your pleasure.
- 15 Lastly, all of these people are volunteers. Course markers and ride organisers give up huge amounts of their own time (and often time they could be working and competing their own horses). Volunteers are often non-riding family who have been coerced into giving up their weekends to come and sit on a checkpoint in the middle of nowhere. Don't give them grief because they may not know the system perfectly yet. Appreciate them so that they will come back and do it again.

What attracts many people to endurance is its lack of formality. Its great fun for anybody, and a consideration of others and simply saying thank you can make a huge difference to the feel of any event. Thank you, reader, for taking the time to read this.

## And finally ...

Stay strong everyone.

WHOEVER IS TRYING TO  
BRING YOU DOWN IS  
ALREADY BELOW YOU.