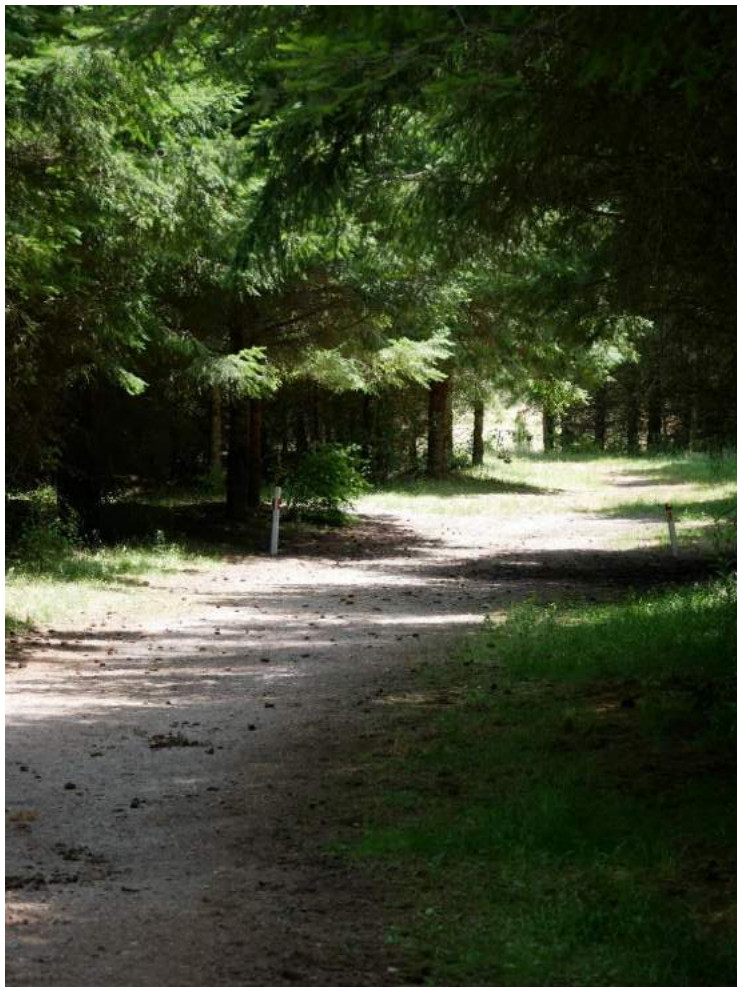




**January - May 2020**



Empty tracks at the end of the season. Here's hoping we're back out there soon.

# Editorial

And welcome to 2020. It appears that this issue has become a quarterly newsletter instead of monthly!! I've started this edition about five times and as fast as I begin big things happen, meaning starting again. Apologies as always for having taken so long between issues of The Distance. Big things that have happened since December are that we've put out a draft set of rules for the membership to consider, and then there we were all battling the extremes of weather (lots of rain in the south and none in the north), and then COVID 19 hit so we had a very sudden end to the season. Many of our members are in essential industries so I guess they'll be pretty much business as normal, but for many others this past month in particular has changed priorities with regard to job security and income at the very least. It will be a number of months before we approach any kind of normality I think. I have faith that if we all play our part we'll get back to some kind of normality sooner rather than later, but I think it will be a little while before we're completely back to normal. Until then, look after yourselves and your ponies.



Daryl Owen

## ESNZ Endurance Board

In the past 12 months or so, the ESNZ Endurance Board have been holding a mix of in-person and videoconference meetings as a means of saving money and making it easier for Board members to fully participate (not having to spend dollars and many hours travelling to attend a physical meeting). A balance had to be sought as there are definite benefits to in-person meetings so we had been aiming for 3 face-to-face meetings each year in addition to the AGM and then trying to meet remotely in most other months. That process stood us in good stead for when we all went into lockdown as we were already accustomed to working remotely.

The past 12 months has been extremely busy with providing options for our membership by developing a modified set of rules for our sport, liaising with ESNZ and developing an alternative membership proposal, managing disruptions to our sport due to COVID-19, the sad cancellation of our National Championships and now making arrangements for our forums and possibly even our AGM to be run online. Board member Sue Billigheimer has done an amazing job on many different projects, especially as our member on the ESNZ Board and liaising with ESNZ in general. Jenny Weston similarly has devoted a great deal of time to the rule revision and other projects. Our Sports Administrator Jo Lankow has continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes and often in the Ride Secretary's tent/caravan/float/office at numerous events. As well as being very involved in the rules revision and everything else going on Jo has also found time to get most of the season awards calculated and onto the Facebook page and website. Overseeing the whole thing has been the Chair of our Board, Marie Wakeling.

This season has been very demanding for all and particularly for those on the Board. The challenges have been constant and there has been very little respite. With the AGM approaching there will be vacancies for Board positions and new members always bring fresh energy. As mentioned before the Board has been having many meetings online, which reduces the time commitment for Board members as well as reducing the cost to our sport. The location of face-to-face meetings is flexible so as to choose the best option for current board members. Given that most regional airports are currently closed, we will probably have

limited options for venue for physical meetings but that will have to be managed as the situation develops. As a Board member you have the chance to make things happen for our sport. As the saying goes, “if you don’t want to part of the problem, be part of the solution”. You also get a broader overview of equestrian sports in New Zealand and opportunities to interact with the other disciplines and ESNZ staff in head office. If you have useful experience and abilities this is a great way to give back to your sport and have a hand in guiding it. If you feel self-conscious that others have much better skills than you do, well others are likely feeling the same. Enthusiasm and passion are needed as well as the time to commit to the activities that need to be undertaken. Many people in our sport already lead busy lives and contribute to the sport at club level. Board members drawn from across the clubs will help to achieve cohesion and enhance communication back to the grass-roots membership.

## **Development and Mentoring programme**

A few years back Andrea Smith, Susan Reid and Ursula Keenan were the driving force behind a new programme to mentor riders who either wanted to progress their goals for successful completion at

longer distances or improve the performance of those who were already competing at that level. The original concept evolved somewhat over time and Andrea and Sue continued to offer their expertise and knowledge to riders who signed up for the Development and Mentoring Programme. Sue and Andrea have advised that they would like to step back from the programme in its current form so there is an opening for a new leader (or leaders) to mentor our up and coming riders and help them set achievable goals. Are you the person to inspire others to achieve? Do you have knowledge and expertise to pass on? Can you ‘pick up the reins’ of this worthwhile programme and lead the next wave of riders to grow? Don’t be shy. You could make a real contribution to the sport. We will be calling for applicants in the near future so watch out for the notice to members.

## **Juniors**

Susan Reid was also the instigator of the programme for our junior riders and when her energies necessarily became focused on High Performance she stepped back from the Junior programme and others have stepped up to lead it. With Pip Mutch’s current two-year term drawing to a close, the Board are calling for expressions of interest to continue the great work that has been put in to date in encouraging and developing a programme to support our junior riders. This programme has really helped to develop a community feel among our juniors as well as improving riding skills and horsemanship. Are you passionate about coaching and developing the next generation? Can you inspire our kids and help them to bond into a community who look forward to each event for both the competition and to see their friends? The Juniors programme is as much about passion and the ability to inspire, and working with riding coaches and others who will help with teaching particular skills. If this sounds like something that you would be interested in, we encourage you to put your name forward.

## **The Distance**

ESNZ Endurance’s member newsletter was started by Heidi Bulfin, and when other responsibilities meant that she was no longer able to dedicate sufficient time to the newsletter, she asked me to take it over and I’ve been doing it since then. As with many things, someone with fresh energy and a new perspective would be good to take over managing the content for the newsletter (though you won’t need to write all the material yourself). Maintaining a network of contributors from the clubs and sometimes others including our vets and updates from the Board spreads the workload somewhat. The Distance is a great way to celebrate what’s happening in our sport and I know many of you look forward to reading what’s been going on around the country in each edition. I certainly enjoy tracking down the stories about each club and working out what things our membership want to know about. You would need a computer, the ability to write, a bit of time, and as with all volunteer positions the role requires a passion for the sport.



## Clubs

**Waikato** – Waikato club's highlight of the season was necessarily the Dunstan Horsefeeds ESNZ Endurance North Island Champs. A relatively small number of entries (for a number of reasons) led to a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere with some great results, both nationally and individually. Pip Mutch and Ana Whitehead took the 160km senior and junior titles for the second year in a row. Waikato club's Team Miro had a successful Champs, all bitless and barefoot. Mike Bragg was the oldest competitor of the event and successfully completed 160km on Miro Blaze of Glory, with Daryl Owen and Miro Bonique also completing the 160km, and passing the 3000km benchmark in the process. Team Miro also took the NI champs Junior 120km title with Ruth Dawber giving the ride to Fiona Stephen. This was Fiona's first attempt at a distance greater than 80km, and she completed in great style to take the win and also BC. Phil Goldsmith also had a great day on Goldie Rox to take a solid second place in the 60km Championship. Waikato members Stella Hansen and Antoinette Arnott claimed first and third place in the 20km CTR, and Waikato breeder Barbara McGregor was thrilled to witness a win and a second for Craig Royston horses in the 100km and the 160km. Ola Schreurs also had a solid finish at this event, contributing to her finishing as runner up in the Intermediate Horse and Rider series for the year.







With the early finish to the season the club's last calendared ride was unfortunately unable to be run, but there were several other events earlier in the season. The Bay of Plenty was again host to the first rides, with a return to the beautiful Thornton Beach and to the ever challenging but stunning course at Pikowai. A new venue was also added at Murumuru Farm in Ruatiti. Those who came to these rides were rewarded with wonderful riding country and reaching some great individual goals. New people were introduced to the sport, including a number of foreign visitors. *Daryl Owen*

**King Country** - King Country Club had its second season back under ESNZ affiliation and the highlight for the club was a great ride put on at Ross Hill's place at Hikumutu, near Taumaranui. The weather was great and those that had time got to have a ride in Ross's jet boat. Les and Maureen Davies hosted a German student, Rosanna Kirchner, who loved riding, so she joined the club and finished her exchange year as an open rider before returning to Germany. She rode Robyn Peter's horse and got him to Open status on some very tough 80km rides. Robyn Peters also got back into the sport and rode Makahiwi Titan at Kohuratahi, having an amazing ride on a green horse. Maureen Davie rode her horse Makahiwi



Phoenix in the Intermediate CTR at the Nth Island Champs and won, and then the next day lined up again on Makahiwi Phoenix for the 60km Nth Island Championship Ride, taking the win in that as well. The success of Phoenix this year adds to her previous total and with her win at the club's Hikumutu ride she passed her 4000km career total. Makahiwi Phoenix won every ride that she and Maureen entered throughout the season, and also took out the Intermediate Series for the season. The runner up was Makahiwi Cercie, resulting in a good season also for Makahiwi Arabians. *Maureen Davie*



**Kohuratahi** - The 2019/20 season for the Kohuratahi Club started with some training rides down Ruahine way, and it was great to see our President Giles Gillings back in the saddle after a good few years off! Five Kohuratahi riders started the Waikato ride at Whakatane and, despite Mother Nature trying her best to beat us down, four of the five qualified. December saw Isla Mutch and Sahar Park Moondance qualify in their first 80km, and Giles on Halo out again for another 40km. Ruahine also held a \*\*120km and Pip Mutch on Mauku Bella, and Sian Reid on Kowhai Martini took out 1st and 2nd in that. Pip was also a member of the Trans Tasman team that had victory over the Aussie team at this competition. Roll on to the North Island Champs where Pip on Bella and Susan Reid on Martini took line honours for the second year running. What an enjoyable gallop finish!!! Our Club ride in February had 22 starters and we were lucky to get a wee bit of rain that dropped the temp a couple of degrees for Sunday's ride. Isla cruised around her second 80km to become an Open rider! It was also great to Introduce Holly Fulton and her new pony Woodrow Memphis Belle to endurance, and see Megan Gaukrodger and AA Phantom back out again. Unfortunately the season came to an abrupt halt as everyone was preparing for Nationals, so we're busy working on babies to debut next season! *Pip Mutch*





Kohuratahi member Isla Mutch 'busy working on babies for next season' 😊



**Ruahine** Club welcomed some new members to the sport, particularly with Sylvia & Leanne Ireland and Sandie Warren bringing new Juniors into the sport – Lily McLeod, Taliyah Peta-Nelson, Phinece Stimpson and Grace Wood all becoming eligible to attend Junior camp. Heidi Pihama achieved open rider status in her first season with rides on Westhills Pharraah and then with Alshar Blue Chief after purchasing him from Stu & Marie Wakeling. Ashlea Watson progressed from lead rein classes to completing 40 km rides on her own. It's been great to see riders achieving the goals that they had set for themselves and their horses.

The club held three early-season training rides at Scotts Ferry and attention then focused on hosting the Trans-Tasman competition at Waioru with combined CEI\* / CEN 80 km, and combined CEI2\* / CEN 120 km classes in addition to a range of shorter distances. Murray Smith secured new land to ride over on the east side of SH1 providing new scenery for competitors whilst incorporating most of the tracks that riders will have seen from the Irirangi ride base. As always, there was a huge amount of work in putting on an



event of this size and importance from marking the track, organising accommodation and meals for the visiting Australian team, ride secretary was the ever-reliable Jo Lankow, and thanks to Dunstan Horse Feeds



for sponsorship of the event. It was nice to welcome Deb Symington from Western Australia as PGJ and Albert Sole Guitart from Queensland as FVD and give him his first trip to NZ.

Despite seeing all 4 seasons of weather over the weekend, this was a hugely successful event with shared dinners, plenty of socialising and high completion rates in all events. Best of all, the NZ team retained the Trans-Tasman trophy! Sandie Warren and CR Zarita were the reserve combination in the NZ team and came 4th in the combined 120 km event. Andrea Smith and Glenmore Tornato also qualified in 7th place, unfortunately Glenmore A'Complich was lame at the final inspection for Georgia. Emma Watson and Little Victory won the combined JY 80 km.

At NI Champs at NEC in January, Sandie and CR Zarita came 2nd in the Combined 160 km riding in with Andrea and Tornato who were 3rd. Georgia Smith and Glenmore Style Ish were 3rd in the combined 120km. Ruahine members were 2nd, 3rd and 4th in the combined 100 km with Trudi Thomas-Morton on Shirley Valentine, Murray Smith on Glenmore Tay'isha and Louisa Muir on Cyden Wings in that order.



Pip Ireland spent much of the season working and competing in Australia but returned to NZ in time to pick up a few rides including on Jane Ferguson's Daagir for the win in the Combined 120 km at NI Champs. She also rode one of Sean Trafford's stallions late in the season and it was great to see Sean, Knight and Prince out at a few events. Pip brought Emily Markey with her from Australia and Emily was able to complete a few rides in NZ before heading home.

Ruahine club members continue to work hard behind the scenes with Marie chairing the Board and Jenny also a Board member. Jenny and Murray are on the Technical Committee. Jenny and Andrea are both the High Performance and Trans Tasman selectors whilst Andrea is half of the dynamic duo running the Development and Mentoring programme. Jo works hard as ride secretary for most Ruahine events as well



as for a number of other club rides and most FEI and championship events whilst keeping the sport in order as Sports Administrator. Sylvia is much in demand as an official at endurance events throughout NZ and it was great to see her out completing a few Intro rides after a few seasons away from competing due to health issues.



Ruahine members have been lucky to have plenty of rides held by the Wairarapa Club this season which are within travelling distance for most of our members – those events gave most of us opportunities to progress milestones with our horses. Ruahine were unable to secure a ride base and course for our usual Labour Weekend fixture and it was good that Wairarapa were able to pick up this date. At short notice, Ruahine were planning to offer a late season ride (late April) near Dannevirke which would have provided a new track and a change of scenery for riders. Unfortunately, this was not to be. Along with the National Champs and the Junior and Development & Mentoring camps our season has come to a sudden halt. We look forward to the commencement of the 2020/21 season and seeing everyone out and about again.

Season Awards are now being calculated and to date the following have been announced:

- Ashlea Watson and Candy winner of the Junior CTR Horse and Rider award
- Andrea Smith and Glenmore Tornato – very close runners-up Senior Endurance Horse and Rider



- Emma Watson and Little Victory – third in the FEI Series for Junior / Young Rider
- Georgia Smith and Glenmore Style Ish – 3rd = in the FEI Championship Series.
- Craig Royston Zarita (ridden by Sandie Warren & owned by Deirdre Bartlett) was runner-up in the Senior Distance Horse of the Year with 620 km qualified.

Hope everyone (horse and riders) are well rugged-up for winter and have been coping well with lockdown.

*Jenny Weston*

## Wairarapa - Wairarapa Endurance and CTR club 2019/2020 season round-up

Despite a belated start to the season after a new CTR ride base became unavailable for a September CTR, the club was able to run a full calendar of events, with 7 competitions hosted across 11 days. A big workload but sincere thanks goes to our generous landowners (several of whom welcomed us back twice), and our hard-working committee, crew and officials for enabling so many rides to be run.

Like so many sports, COVID-19 brought events to an unexpected early end, as our last event at Black Rock Rd had to be cancelled, and club members preparing for the big trip south for National champs subsequently turned horses out for their winter break early.

The club ran events from Pirinoa in South Wairarapa, through to Whakamarumaru Station in the sunny (and even then, horrendously dry) Hawkes Bay, many of which are hill tracks, ideal for fittening horses and with lovely views. The club caravan certainly covers some miles.



Pirinoa Station kicked off the season with events through to 80km, though only one horse attempted that distance this year, the event coming so early as it does in the season. Maureen and Les Davies' overseas student Roseanna Kirchner rode her first 80 on Robyn Peter's horse Nejem; they both performed phenomenally well, successfully completing a tough 80 entirely solo. Maureen kicked off her season tilt at the intermediate series title, with a win in the 60km class on Makahiwi Phoenix.

Attention then turned to Labour Weekend, where the Harvey family from Daisybank station came to our rescue, generously opening their property to the club when Ruahine were unable to secure a venue with most farms still locked

down for calving and lambing. Daisybank is a superbly scenic venue, and the ride never disappoints – there were a few more gates than normal as calving and lambing was still taking place, but they were very hospitable hosts, opening every gate possible and juggling ride base around their calving cows.



The 80km class was won by Deirdre Bartlett on CR Xmas Star, finishing almost half an hour ahead of Hanna Whitehead on Dee's other horse, CR Zaria in second. The tension was rising as the Smith family popped back into base for Murray to replace a shoe on his mare before they did the last few km run to the end of the road and back. The clock was ticking ever closer to the 8-hour maximum time for Andrea and Georgia



on their open horses, but they rode a perfectly judged ride to finish with five minutes to spare; all three horses rewarded with completions. Maureen and Les again made the big trip south with Maureen scoring a further win in the 60.

Next on the calendar was Matahiwi, always a key event in the club season and an ideal track for those stepping up in distance. The weather on Sunday was abominable, with steady rain all day. Horses and riders dug deep to complete in miserable

conditions, with soaked to the skin riders and gear. At least it kept horses cooler. After heading out at a strong early pace and leading the open 80s for much of the first loop, Jane Ferguson and Daagir were joined by a determined Trudi Thomas-Morton and Shirley Valentine and rode the rest of the day together, with Trudi eventually taking the win. It was lovely to see some new juniors in the saddle on Saturday, joining the Bartlett/Warren team.

Another highlight for the club was the selection of three Wairarapa members to represent New Zealand in the trans-tasman challenge, hosted by the Ruahine Club at Waiouru at the start of December. Ana Whitehead on the superbly in-form Dundevalle Nazecca was the team junior rep in the 2\* 120km class, with Deirdre and CR Xmas Star and Jane Ferguson and Daagir joining the team in the 1\* 80km. Deirdre had also loaned the well performed CR Zaria to the Aussie team where she represented Team Australia in the 2\*



120, and Cherry Brown also kindly loaned Tararua Diablo for the 1\*. This event was a highlight of the season and Jane travelled out to Tinui to engage in team training several times in the lead-up. And what an event it was, with Team Kiwi qualifying all five riders, and taking the win and the trophy. Representing our country was a huge honour and definitely a highlight of my life.

Coming back down to earth, some Wairarapa riders then made the haul north for an endurance ride in the Hawkes Bay. Ride base was like concrete, with nary a blade of grass in sight; a worrying sign of the terrible drought to come given it was only mid-December. Rider numbers were low, but we were joined by two Canadian riders who were over for a family Christmas and delighted to experience their first kiwi endurance competition. Angela rode Jane's Daagir, with Sarah on Shane and Jen's Tararua Babaganoush, and both rode strongly to cross



the line as 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> intros in the 40km class (not being ESNZ members). A BBQ and singalong on Saturday night up at the homestead was a fabulous social

occasion, with guitar, fiddle, and song, although we weren't up to Albertan party standards with riders heading to their tents and trucks not long after 10pm.

The new year brought riders back to Daisybank Station again, where a few months difference had transformed the track with much drier conditions and harder ground. Conditions were pretty good though with comfortable temperatures for early January where the ride can be very hot. The 80km this time was quinnellaed by Team Tararua, with Jenny and Tararua El Dente taking the win from Shane and his big 'Red'. Ana Whitehead on Arahi Zinzan won the junior. Maureen and Phoenix were proving an unbeatable team in 60km classes this season, though Deirdre and Chappie pushed hard finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> just 3 seconds back.

January also took club representative Jane Ferguson to Upper Valley Pony Club north of Upper Hutt where she ran an endurance and CTR rally for 21 juniors; explaining the sport, giving a strapping demo, putting them through a mock vet-ring, and giving them the chance to experience what riding a CTR is like (round the club grounds). A most enjoyable day and we'd love to see some of them coming 'over the hill' next season.





February saw the club again at Matahiwi where conditions couldn't have been more different to November with hot temperatures. Jenny, Georgia and Jane rode most of the 80km together, and finished in that order for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> in the senior class. Maureen was giving Phoenix a break, opening the 60km class up to a happy Rowena Black on MP Donatella who took the win by a nose over Gemma Haywood and Roselea Royal Fire.

The final event of the season was a CTR out at Tinui, with a new ride base and riders excited to experience a new track. It turned out to be an exceptionally challenging ride and completing the 32km class under maximum time was no mean feat. Jane and Daagir were closest to time on the day being 2 minutes under time and winning the novice 20km class. Vicky Whitehead and the amazing Dundevale Nazecca won the open class, and Lisa Southon and Tararua Marley won the intermediate.

Special mention this season must go to club juniors: firstly, Ashlea Watson and Candy, winning the 2019/20 junior CTR series title. It was Ashlea's first season off lead-rein and this was a wonderful result. Ana Whitehead and Naz again had an exceptional season, retaining the North Island 160km junior title, along with various season and series awards. Grace Blyth and Supre Zerlina won the 1\* 100km title at North Island champs, her first time riding that distance. Our juniors led the way for club success!

While we don't know what the 2020/21 season will bring with COVID uncertainties, we hope to welcome riders to experience the hospitality of the Wairarapa and enjoy our events and tracks. *Jane Ferguson*

## Marlborough – 2019-2020 season in Marlborough

All in all, the 2019-2020 season was not unkind to the Marlborough club. We only lost our final two CTRs, both due to be held in April, to Covid-19. Looking forward, probably 95% of our regular entries come from inside the region so when things do start up again in the 2020-2021 season, it should hopefully be with little affect. That said, we definitely won't be resting on our laurels.



2019-2020 saw some club members shine, stepping up with a firm goal in mind of riding in the Hygain South Island Championships, which our club held in February. Late in November last year, committee member Cassandra Boon decided that competing in a Champs class at the event, with son, 12 year old Charlie, would be something to aim for and so quickly did an ESNZ membership upgrade, horse registration and got themselves qualified at our November CTR. Their aim was the 40km CTR classes, which would still be quite a step up, considering they had

mainly been riding the 15km Novice competitions since they started with the club late in 2017.

16 year old Monique Eatherley, riding with her Aunt Anna Eatherley (and on Anna's other horse) was another Junior to get fully registered so she could qualify for the CTR Champs. They did so last year, which meant the Marlborough club had two riding in the Junior CTR section, for the first time in many years.

The competition was tough in the CTR classes at the South Island Champs, with Monique (riding Bambolina) and Anna (onboard My Lil Ali) having perfected their timing and finishing just seconds off the optimum time, with good heart rates, to take first place in the Junior and Intermediate classes respectively. Charlie (paired with pony Lizzie Fizzie) and Cassandra (riding CB Promise) were not far behind, each finishing second, with all four proving that it's not just the Arabians with low heart rates and that clever riding plays a very significant part also in CTR.

Families riding together was not just unique to CTR at the Hygain South Island Champs, with endurance also featuring several father and daughter, mother and daughter and husband and wife pairs, each providing valuable support to each other in the longer distance events.



Overall the Hygain South Island Champs would be the highlight for the club, working with generous landowners, amazing sponsors and some of the world's top Vets and Officials to ensure the whole weekend went as smoothly as possible, even if the Marlborough weather did choose that particular weekend to grace us with extreme heat.

Local rider Linda Harmon, riding MF Shaheen, was the best-performed of the club members competing, retaining the 120km Senior Championship title they had also won in 2019.

Throughout each season the club recognises distances that each horse completes, when ridden by a club member. Distance sashes start at 150km and go right up into the thousands, and with the club usually holding 10-15 days of competition per season, it's not unheard of for some horses to pick up more than one sash during a season. This season saw MF Shaheen (Linda Harmon) recognised for

completing over 750 endurance kms, while other milestones were achieved by Masada Park Maestro (Tessa Wells) – 500km of endurance and 750km of CTR, Lucy (Kym Gough) – 750km of CTR, El Etruscan (Angela Sloane) – 1,250km of CTR, and Stonelea Sparkling Rose (Heidi Bulfin) – 2,000km of CTR.

New to the sport this season in Marlborough was eight year old Katie Templeman, whose mother Amber is no stranger to the sport and has made a welcome return. Katie completed three rides this season, including back to back events at the South Island Champs with her lovely ponies Sunninghill Razzle Dazzle and Vanace Dolce. We hope to see more of both Katie and Amber in the coming years.





Thank you to everyone involved in making our 2019-2020 rides happen, and especially to the riders who supported them. *Heidi Bulfin*

**Nelson** – Nelson club took a bit of a hit this year with members being severely affected in the aftermath of the big fire and by drought. Lack of venues and members meant that the club ran no rides this year but hopefully we'll see them all back out again soon.

### **Canterbury – CETRC 2019-20 Season**

Like many things now, this does seem like a lifetime ago! Our lives really did change in the biggest hurry and for many competitors meant finishing the season off at Nationals was cut short. Somewhat fittingly, many did this totally unknown at the wonderful Clayton Station Event hosted by Mackenzie. This was the venue for the SI Champs last season that many of our members were instrumental in getting over the line, so if the season was going to wind up in the space of 24 hours, this wasn't a bad place to do it!

We started like we have for the past few seasons with the amazing Winter Series. The support this competition gets is truly humbling, as is working along side the team who bring it together. This season the winners had lovely rugs sponsored by "Stormy Waters Stud". It was lovely to reward the winners of the classes with a rug and the club were very thankful for this sponsorship.

As a club we have really been enjoying giving back to the competitors in recent times and the Winter Series has often help fund this. This season the Development and Mentoring Programme headed south and the club were able to support a number of its members in participating in this programme.



From there we moved onto the regular season. It was exciting to introduce an additional range of events for our competitors this season, getting great support each day at all our events. For the past few seasons, Canterbury have been very dedicated in trying to provide a range of FEI events in the calendar. This season was no different, hosting it at the lovely Cust Domain. This is a venue that really sets the stage for a super event, with such

lovely surrounds to camp in. There was a huge push to get 100 entries at this event, personally, I think I'll live with the 99 we got, but 100 really would have been nice! This was our biggest event for the season in numbers, again the team that manage these numbers are truly incredible. Our season "finished" in February at a stunning Oxford venue, in Canterbury we really struggle to get our rides off the roads, but we were able to do this at this event, with the exception of a small amount in the 80km. I say "finished" as, as soon as the gate was shut on this ride base, we were straight onto planning the next edition of the Winter Series! Obviously, this never happened, however, the wonderful messages of support we received from the wider Canterbury Team, riders, volunteers, members etc was utterly amazing!



I am truly humbled to be at the helm of the Canterbury Team. It is extremely rewarding working with so many motivated, dedicated and willing people. A huge thank you must go everyone who made this season another successful one! The amazing committee, track markers, landowners, grounds keepers, councils, volunteers, vets, sponsors, competitors, clinicians, spectators and horses make

this club what it is. Helping organise these events is a pleasure because of the people, so thank you to you all.

#### Member Highlights:

SI 160km Champion – Philip Graham and Rosewood Bashir

SI 60km Champion – Paula Keer and Silands Shelby  
Intermediate CTR Champion and Distance Horse of the Year– Rena Johnson and Laila Franco  
Novice CTR Champion – Jenny Rouse and Marguerite

7500km – Wolfgang Amadeus

3000km – Rosewood Bashir

Until post Covid,

*Arsula*







**Waitaki** – After their new ride offering at Bushey the Waitaki Team were full steam ahead with the planning of the Waitaki Goldfields National Championships 2020. Waitaki riders were still out to enjoy the fabulous rides held by other clubs and this season congratulated many members on their achievements, including Vicky Copeland and Lexi James to Open Status. We welcomed guest rider Jan Van der Linde from Holland to our club, who had a great season of wins for Holly Farm. Rachel Stocks



completed her first 120km ride at the South Islands, and both Kate and Jorja James had huge successes at Blenheim, winning both the JY 100km and 120km Champions. Covid sadly resulted in the necessary postponement of the Easter Event. President Susie Latta stated she is extremely proud of the club, which has had everything thrown at it this season, yet has stayed strong and fought on. The Waitaki team will keep battling on to come back with a fantastic event next year. Rachel Stock's BTR Windsong took Senior Distance Horse, Jorja James and Glendaar Windsong finished the truncated season runner up in the Junior Horse and

Rider competition and Kate James and Chartei were joint winners of the Intermediate Junior Horse and Rider award. *Rachel Stocks*





**Mt Linton** Mount Linton Endurance Riding Club Southland is back on the ESNZ scene!! After a couple of years in recess, the new committee is an exciting team of new and historic members of the Southern-most Endurance riding club. Let me introduce myself Amanda Butson, the current President of MLERC. I am one of the historic members, a founding member from the clubs first beginnings and a past President of many years during the clubs early years. I formed some fantastic and memorable friendships with many other past members , most significantly the late Kenny Officer, who was a passionate endurance rider and a significant driver of the early direction of MLERC.

Kenny took our club to Mount Linton Station where it all began, and he worked hard at marking the courses that were known to be a real test of stamina and horsemanship, over stunning prime NZ hill country with the most magnificent views and tracks. The massive wool shed at Mount Linton Station was regularly used for post ride prize-giving and BBQs. The station managers back then, were good long term supporters and sponsors of our club. Our club hand made our unique back numbers , hand painting the numerals onto durable black PVC . These numbers sure lasted the distance but are now missing since the club was put into recess. Also missing are the club trophies that MLERC club accumulated from generous sponsors, including the “Kenny Officer Memorial Trophy” and the “EZRAH Memorial Trophy” . Ezrah was bred by Lady Wentworth of England and was the first pure bred Arabian imported into NZ, by my grandfather Jack Tatham. The EZRAH trophy was donated by my mother Denise Wilson who is the current Treasurer of MLERC and she has previously held this position and the position of Secretary in some of the early years of our club.



Our new Secretary, deserving of a massive thank you, is Elfi Menpes. Elfi is a passionate and incredibly hard working driver of MLERC today who has with enthusiasm thrown herself into piles of paperwork and organising. Her efforts deserve huge recognition for helping get our club rides this season approved and under way. Elfi also runs Orepuki Horse treks, providing personalised beach forest and scenic farm riding of her beautiful Arabian horses on the

coast of lower South Island near Riverton. Elfi has with the help of another long-time member Jo Elder , have been the key course markers this season. We all know the huge job that is too!! Jo has marked many of the courses for MLERC in the later years, so thank you Jo for all that effort you have put in. We also welcome two new management committee members Denise Bowen and Matt Fitchett.

The main focus of our club this season has been to train some new officials. This was a large undertaking for a club that restarted with no-one holding the appropriate qualifications, albeit with many having some or plenty of past experience in endurance. So Wendy Farnell was called upon to help and in her truly generous & passionate way, she travelled to Invercargill. We held an Officials course and then our first rides were small events held over the two days following the training course. So the boxes began to be ticked off to formalise the training, experience and skills of our new official trainees. We look forward to solidifying this training and improving our team of ride officials in the coming years.

Our rides this season have been held at Sandy Point, many easy kms along the stunning Oreti beach and through the gently winding forest tracks of Sandy point. The ride environment is memorable to our visitors, kind to the horses and many a fantail dances along the forest tracks following riders.

Our last ride for the season had a good number of entries and dawned on a stunning sunny Southland day at our base at the Rodeo grounds. Wendy Farnell again generously made the long drive from her home and came down to assist in the ride running like clockwork and to act as our TD. The vet ring worked really well from



within the main rodeo arena. Our official Veterinarian was Peggy Angus Cook, who has also been a tremendous supporter and generous giver of her time to our club this season vetting for us at our rides. Classes were well supported in each distance from 10km through to 80km, with most the entries being Introductory or Novice. Three horses were entered in the open 80km class, with Lisa Simpson taking out the win of the Open 80km class, and Best Conditioned Horse. The friendly face of Kevin James, who I remembered fondly from my early days of endurance decades ago, ventured down South for our ride with his daughter Lexi. One highlight of their day, and likely a unique experience... was that on Oreti beach, being a day that many public had flocked out to enjoy the sun sand and surf, the ice cream van sold Lexi an ice cream to enjoy on her ride! Later on in the day, on qualification and completion of her ride, Lexi was congratulated on achieving her Open rider status too!

Our club is strong now at the heart, hopeful and looking forward to another good season ahead. We wish to warmly invite all riders from near and far, to consider a trip south, to enjoy our stunning rides at Sandy Point. Also our committee will look toward one day planning some new venues and courses, and maybe even one day a return to where it all began, to Mount Linton Station.

More info on our club can be found on our Facebook page and Facebook Group Page : Mount Linton Endurance Riders Club -2019 *Amanda Butson*

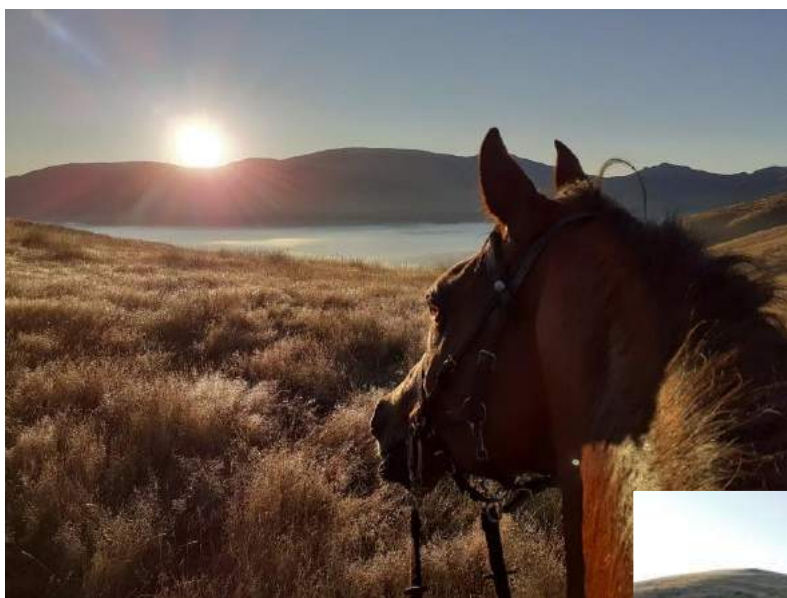
**Mackenzie** The Mackenzie Club have rounded up another season hosting two spectacular rides.

The first ride of the season was held in mid-January at the ever enjoyable Ashwick Flat track. Once again our hard working team of track markers lead by Vanessa Tiffen managed to pull yet another great course off. For a venue that has been used for probably 20 odd years it certainly takes a fair bit of skill to mix it up and keep us all guessing year after year! But that she does, tirelessly creating an enjoyable track for all. 70 odd riders supported the event competing from 5km to 80km and making sure all our officials were kept well and truly on their toes!



Clayton Station hosted the final ride of the season in mid-March, sneaking in just before COVID-19 became apart of everyone's daily vocabulary! Once again an incredible team of track markers lead this time by Alister Holmes certainly paid dividends to the specular scenery the Mackenzie country has to offer. The track offering a steady climb to begin the 40km loop, then wrapping up around the flatter valley floor to balance the course off superbly. Once again rides from 5km to 80km were offered and the support from 70ish combinations was received. Its super exciting to see so many new comers enjoying our fantastic sport, particularly in events under 40km and coming back to support future events (though I've herd the BBQ's are the real draw card! 😊)

We could simply not run these events without the support of our amazing land owners who so seamlessly embrace our presence on their properties, shifting stock, opening gates and being all round good sorts! A huge thank your generosity and hospitality it certainly is greatly appreciated. We are also ever grateful to the all the officials and helpers who relentlessly turn up from around the Island to help us run these events. Once again these rides could not go ahead without you and your dedication, this really is greatly appreciated. *Helen Graham*



## Spotlight on Sponsors

Huge thanks to Dunstan Horsefeeds who have come on board as a major sponsor for our sport this year.




IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT ESNZ ENDURANCE WELCOMES THE TEAM AT DUNSTAN NUTRITION LTD ON BOARD AS MAJOR SPONSORS FOR OUR PRESTIGIOUS FEI SERIES AND END OF YEAR AWARDS FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON.

DUNSTAN NUTRITION LTD IS AN EXCLUSIVE 100% NEW ZEALAND OWNED AND OPERATED COMPANY AND SUPPORTS THE NEW ZEALAND ARABLE SECTOR. THEY HAVE GREAT NUTRITIONAL ADVICE AND THEIR TERRITORY MANAGERS ARE HAPPY TO HELP YOU FORMULATE A DIET TO SUIT YOUR HORSES SPECIFIC NEEDS.

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Also coming back on board for the season is Syncroflex. Many of our members already rely on this product.




**ESNZ ENDURANCE WELCOME TO SYNCROFLEX**

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT ESNZ ENDURANCE WELCOMES LOUIS SCHLINDLER AND **SYNCROFLEX** ON BOARD AS A MAJOR SPONSOR FOR OUR PRESTIGIOUS FEI SERIES AND END OF YEAR AWARDS FOR THE 2019-2020 SEASON.

SYNCROFLEX HAVE DEVELOPED THE MOST ADVANCED AND UNIQUE RANGE OF SUPPLEMENTS TO SUPPORT THE HUMAN BODY AND OUR CANINE AND EQUINE FRIENDS. THE PRODUCTS CAN BE USED DURING HARD & DEMANDING WORK OR SIMPLY TO MAINTAIN AND COMPLEMENT A BALANCED DIET TO SUPPORT OPTIMUM HEALTH.

LOUIS IS PASSIONATE ABOUT ENDURANCE AS A SPORT AND BELIEVES OUR HORSES ACTUALLY ENJOY WHAT THEY ARE DOING WHEN LOOKED AFTER PROPERLY.

THE PRODUCTS THAT ARE EXTREMELY USEFUL FOR ENDURANCE ARE:

- SYNCROFLEX DUAL HA.** A JOINT AND LIGAMENT MAINTENANCE AND LUBRICATION SUPPLEMENT IT WILL ALSO CONTRIBUTE TO INCREASED MOBILITY, FASTER WOUND HEALING, DRY SKIN RELIEF, IMPROVED VITALITY, TISSUE RECONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVED MUSCLE STRENGTH.
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## Safety first

Wairarapa club President Frank Aldridge delivered an important message to us all recently after having a bad fall and breaking his pelvis. Despite being not far from the house it was 4 hours before anyone came looking for him and he was found. By this point the temperature was cooling and he was also sliding into shock. Frank's message was that even if you're an excellent rider and you're just in the next paddock its worth always carrying an emergency locator beacon so you can call for help. Many of us live in areas where there is no cell phone coverage, and if you're a farmer working out the back of the farm it might be hours before someone checks up on you. Its worth the investment to have some kind of emergency beacon, or at least to check in regularly.

There are a number of different emergency beacons. <https://www.wildernessmag.co.nz/2019-guide-to-personal-locator-beacons/> Personally I've had one for about 10 years and have very rarely carried it because I haven't been quite sure how to wear it. It needs to be on the rider rather than the horse – the horse won't be able to activate it for you if its on the saddle and you're on the ground. After Frank's message I will be making the effort to carry it in future. In all the time I've had my Emergency Locator Beacon I've never had a need of it, but it only takes one time, and you don't get advance notice of what time that will be.

Another system I particularly like the look of is Ridersmate. This is a two part system that has one part attached to your saddle and one end to the rider. If the two halves part company it sends a signal to your designated contact to let them know. You have 30 seconds to cancel the message (if say you got off to undo a gate and forgot to deactivate the ridersmate). It also tracks the location of the horse if it takes off when you fall. The advantage of this system is that it allows your emergency contact to make the call on whether or not to call in the emergency services. It does require enough cell phone service however to send a text message.

## Winter's on the way

Clean tack and check for anything needing repairing – stitching on stirrup leathers, buckles, cracks around buckle holes – and then make sure it gets mended rather than being stuck back in the shed to worry about later. It's a good time to go through and mend, replace or clean any of those velco strips that get clogged up as well. And don't forget to clean out the feed buckets in your truck ready for next season.

## And finally ...



We'll be back on our ponies  
before you know it. Stay safe  
everyone