



## UP COMING EVENTS

- 23 MAR 14 - BRC Country Park Classic
- 25-26 APR 14 - South Coast O/N Trail Ride
- 27 APR 14- Kale & Hardwicke Eventing Clinic

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# Saddle Bags

BUNGENDORE ARC

NUMBER 2 2014

## Presidents Message

By Helen Locke

Hi everyone

The year got off to a great start with about 19 riders on the Kowen Forest trail ride at the end of January. I think I may have made the ride a little long – “Are we there yet?” seemed to be a fairly constant question! Thanks to Jenny and Gloria for their reports on the ride. After a HUGE amount of work by many, the Classic was (now) famously “washed out” (after no rain for months beforehand!!!) - very disappointing but I am sure the day will be a great success on 23 March. I have ordered a perfect autumn sunny day! Good luck to all those riding in the competition.

Cheers Helen

## Derby Day—November 2013

By Val Woodward

We were lucky as the weather was fine and pleasant. The day was successful with only a few hiccoughs. We had happy riders, good company, and lots of good fun especially for the spectators watching the horses' reactions to the red-boa'd echidna (thanks Helen) and that 'scary' black bridge. The members picking up the tennis balls was kept busy with quite a number missing the target although there were a few good strikes. Top score was fun to watch as riders competed to see who could get the most points. The harder jumps – the plank and the doubles scored 4 while the “wall” was worth 20 points. The wall tended to be avoided.

Many thanks for everyone pitching in to make the day run smoothly ; to our callers; our photographer and egg dispenser Fiona; to Christine, our long suffering judge trying to keep track of riders and admitting that it the was the hardest judging she had done but also admitted it was fun; to Sam and Rob who set up the Top Score and Sam for judging along with Kaaren: to Keith for his letterbox; to Harry for regos and BBQ; and to Elisa and Peter - our caterers. Finally thanks to all those who helped to pack up..

Photos are to be displayed on Facebook. (Compliments of Fiona)

### Lucky Dip Winners for the day:

#### Top Score;

X -Rails: Searle J, Kristen P, Hannah B

45cm: Karen McD, Hannah B

60cm: Helen T, Karen McD

Derby: Kaaren S ,Helen T  
Sam W

## BRC Kowen Forest Trail ride—27th January 2014

By Jenny Andrews



Jenny on Skipper

The BRC website has just been updated and you can now buy your uniform requirements on line. Mind you, still can't quite do payment through the site but an EFT fixes that! Check it out at [mybrc.net](http://mybrc.net) and select "uniform."

Firstly, I will introduce myself as a new member to BRC. I have been around horses all my life, agisted in Canberra in various places since about 1985, generally choosing private places to keep up to 3 horses.

I have recently moved to agist along Sutton Road, and I had been a member of MARC for many years, I joined there when I bought my appaloosa, he was 5 years old, he will turn 22 this year and he takes mates for rides.

It was perfect morning, a little chilly to begin with, as I live in town and have a 30km trip to my horses each day, but thankfully I have reached that stage of my life and I am retired ( after 28 years of being a High School Teacher) I am now enjoying days of horses.

I had checked out where we had to go earlier in the week, lovely spot, a little parched at the moment, but the Community Hall and area look like a great spot for the Wamboin Community.

Sadly, along the way, I hit a kangaroo. I grew up in North Western NSW, and lived on a farm all my childhood, and the only 2 roos I have collected are in Canberra. So I think my car will soon be sporting a nice new BULL BAR, instead of donating \$600 to the insurance company to fix my dent, I will ad that to better front end. The roo hopped off, but I think he was not too happy. As I was towing, I did not brake, I prefer not to have my horse come through the front window. We made it, then of course we chose to park in the wrong spot, so off we went again, all moved.

Set to roll, and I like taking photos, of horses of course. My son says to me, "Mum, most people write their memoirs" well I fill up youtube and facebook with mine. I have had a few computer crashes too, so I tend to save photos to odd places now also.

We headed slowly along Bingley way, I could see the end of the road as we took a right turn to head up between some houses in the trees. There was a dam with 2 lovely benches, a sad reflection on our society to see one chained to its tree. But I guess if it's not bolted down, people will steal. I have certainly learnt that in my years of agisting.

All the horses were impeccably behaved, mine might have been the bounciest (he hates the saddle bags I put on him, and likes to tell me so each time we canter).

We took a left track, wandered slowly among the trees, until we came to an old gate and clearing, which followed the fence line. I went slowly after the trot group, and the lady in front threw a glove boot, so she hopped off and replaced it as her mare waited patiently for her. Not so easy when a group has headed off in front. I have back country boots on Skipper, I turfed my gloved boots after I had parted ways with them a few times in the bush. Much happier with the ones we wear now.

We eventually got to the wooden step throughs into the forest, and headed off to the left of the tracks, the scenery and views were amazing, so dry though, but good that there is no smoke on that horizon so far too.

We wound our way along and up, it was getting a bit hotter by then, Skipper certainly was not fit enough for the hills we did, but he made it, all the time insisting he hates being at the rear of a ride, but much better behaved than previous group rides we have done, so perhaps at 11 he is growing a bit more brain.



We ended up back at the step throughs and headed left, the opposite way to the way we arrived there. A short trip through the trees and we saw the little benches by the dam, back onto Bingley Way, and finally I let Skipper walk, he was incredibly determined to get to the front, and walk he did, we had almost caught the front rider, and he stopped and hopped off, so Skipper was finally happy.

Thank you to the organisers, 2 hours is plenty for my butt in the saddle, and the ride was just right. I would imagine Skipper is lying upside down in his paddock right now, thinking, I am aching all over.

## BRC Kowen Forest Trail ride—27th January 2014

By Gloria Elder

Firstly a big thanks to Helen Locke for organising this fabulous ride which I found very exciting and fun. A turn out of 19 riders, we left on time, all horses and riders calm and relaxed head out 1km down the road to get to the entrance of the forest riders all chatting away horses happy as well, was wonderful to be there. We had 2 groups the first they just disappeared good on you's. And then the other group we had a lovely relaxed ride enjoying the peace and fresh air along with chatting trotting up through trees. This ride had hills I mean hills and down dale was just so great. A lovely 2hr ride fantastic. Thanks to all the riders and horses for showing and making it a lovely ride.



## Eventing Clinic at Bungendore— 1st/2nd March 2014

By Anna McAuliffe

On the weekend of 1st/2nd March 2014, eventing coach, Carlene Barton headed south to Bungendore for what was to be a fabulous weekend of training at Bungendore Showground. The clinic ran over 2 days with 17 riders being fortunate enough to be coached by Carlene in all three eventing phases from Newcomers to Prelim. The dressage lessons were max 3 riders per group on either the Saturday or the Sunday morning. The group showjumping lessons were conducted on Saturday afternoon in wet conditions, but the new showjumping arena surface provided very good footing for the lessons to continue. The rain cleared for a nice sunny day for the cross country conducted on Sunday afternoon. Dinner at the Lake George Hotel Saturday night provided a fun social aspect to the weekend and was enjoyed to by all who attended.



Photos available at the [BRC Photobucket website](#)

The focus during the dressage lessons was working on rider position to connect seat with horse, to “open” the rider’s pelvis; along with practicing some “bending” exercises for the horse, down the long side to create “straightness” in the horse. The main focus of the showjumping, using a grid exercise, was to achieve a “rhythmic canter” whilst keeping the horse between the leg, with LESS hand and MORE leg. For the Cross country lesson the focus was on achieving a “good rhythmic forward canter”, keeping the horse between the leg, “straight” and letting the horse do its job, which is to “jump the fence”. Carlene has an excellent ability to simplify things to get an amazing change in her students and their horse. All riders passed on a huge thanks to Carlene for her expertise and advice and can’t wait for the next clinic. BRC’s annual One Day Event will be held on 1st June 2014 at Bungendore Showground, unofficial Club Classes 45, 60, 80cm and this year due to demand, an additional Class will be offered for adults 45cm “chicken” class.



## It's the Journey that Counts

By Val Woodward

Our first jumping lesson- the 2 point seat.



This phase is one of many that has been quoted both verbally and in the written word along with another adage "It's never too late" Both sayings I believe are true. The following is written basically those individuals who are returning to riding or taking it up at an age which everyone else regards as old. In the latter category I think I might be regarded as ancient by the under 30's.

Learning may take longer, especially when learning to ride (ie. Ride, and not just sit on) a horse for the first time for someone with little balance, namely me at the tender age of 57. I had always wanted to do two things when I was younger- ice skate and ride a horse. The opportunities and I might add finances were never available at the same time so when I retired from teaching in 1997, a good friend and colleague organised and convinced me to attend a Classical Horsemastership Clinic run by Marji Armstrong, a student of Nuno Olivero. After making sure that a "raw" beginner would be accepted I joined a very different world.. This was my first true introduction to a horse. I hadn't a clue about saddling, bridling, grooming etc. and, as for going near the hindquarters, that created butterflies in my stomach. My friend had given me a grey mare, a pacer, 15.2 hands and 14 years old. I had "ridden" her a few times on the trail where she generally followed the others. She was easy to float and pick up her feet but hard to catch. At first it took two of us plus the enticement of food.

The riders at the clinic made me feel most welcome. This was an eye-opener as the initial morning session was each rider explaining where they were at. The terminology was all "Double Dutch" to me. They talked about in-hand, lungeing, shoulders-in, pirouettes and reinbacks to name but a few. Afternoon session -Lesson 1:- get the horse to walk forward in the right direction. Later, I followed at the back of the quadrille and discovered that I had a horse that kicked if another came near. Margi must have been in despair that first session. Sadi was hard to get going in a walk let alone a trot/pace. My legs were up like a jockey's and I must have looked

like a banana sitting on top. Anyway it was a great learning experience. I wanted to attend the next clinic and what's more I was accepted. So four clinics later, my legs a little longer, my back a little straighter with a horse a little more accomplished in lateral work, we endeavoured to make Sadi the pacer, canter. Not in the arena!

Time for a new horse – one a bit smaller, about 14 hands- Redman came along, a chestnut Gelding also about 15 years old. Redman had been in a paddock with 30 other horses and only been ridden on the odd occasion In the previous year he had been ridden by an eleven year old who couldn't handle him. He was a goer with a "one hour" syndrome. He wanted to go home after an hour. He was opposite in nature to Sadi. He was friendly, easy to saddle, float (after an initial hiccough) and had a very smooth canter as well as being very nimble on his feet he was very lovable and willing. He was a quick learner, better than his owner, and he loved to canter especially when he was supposed to trot. He and I progressed together in our in-hand, lungeing, lateral work- pirouettes, piaffe, shoulders-in at the trot and on the odd occasion at the canter. Another great goal! I was no longer "tail- end" Charlie in the quadrille line and to top it off I was able to join in at the canter – a real buzz.

Article continues on next page



## It's the Journey that Counts cont...

By Val Woodward

Unfortunately I have lost Redman. He passed away suddenly and he is much missed. A search for a new horse began. Flash Dance appeared in the picture. He was an 11 year old Palomino/Arab x (14.2hands) with looks similar to Redman but with a totally different attitude and the biggest “wuss” in the country. Mutual respect has grown slowly and while I didn't go back to the start I had moments of frustration. (eg. Floating problems- from unsuccessful to 30 seconds) along with moments of elation on achieving new skills (half-passe, Spanish walk and gymnastic exercises over poles and cavaletti). Flash has displayed that he enjoyed jumping and was ridden by a younger rider for this purpose and while he achieved 1.15m he now (at 20) enjoys the more gentle discipline of dressage and is progressing well. He is still a “wuss”.

During this time, probably unwisely, I took on another goal, the training and riding of a colt I fell in love with at 9 weeks and bought at 15 months – a rose grey Arab named Bravado. He was, and still is, cheeky, curious, gentle and willing but with ‘a mind of his own’ which has heightened since he cracked his hip and was out of action for about 3 years. I admit I didn't start him up and his accident set him back.

Also during this time I joined the Bungendore Riding Club (2004) where I also met a very supportive group of riders of varying abilities (always above mine) and disciplines and from all walks of life. The club has provided all types of activities to expand my experience although the older I get the less adventurous I am becoming.

Meanwhile, Bravado and I are getting close to achieving some high school steps on request, especially Spanish walk and trot. The latter being very hard to sit. We have been to clinics and ridden in quadrilles. He is still challenging but I am finally becoming the 51% of the partnership instead of the 49% and I have finally been told that I am actually “riding the horse“. 3 cheers!! We have finally made the canter again (not well) and gone out on trail rides without lateral evasive techniques. He has now found a new evasion – standing still but I am winning on that one too

The journey with all my horses has been worth all the butterflies that filled me many times and I feel a great deal of satisfaction (plus a few bruises) from it as well as making new friends. If you are thinking about learning to ride, getting back on after a long break or bringing on a young one and have the opportunity to do so, **do it**. It is well worth the effort. I started with zero knowledge and I probably won't make the Masters Games but it has been fun trying. It is definitely “the journey that counts.”

Many thanks to all who helped me on the way and made the journey fun.

*Val Woodward*





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The Bungendore Riding Club is an adult riding club for riders over the age of 18. Our members include beginners, adults returning to riding and adults who regularly compete in open events. Those who enjoyed pony club as a child will also find our activities fun and reminiscent of those they experienced as younger riders.

Usually, the Club meets for training days at the Bungendore Showgrounds on the last Sunday of the month. We organise qualified local and visiting instructors to instruct members in an informal, fun and relaxed environment. Instruction ranges from basic ground work, lunging and poles, to dressage, jumping, eventing, working equitation, sporting and mounted games, and hacking. From time to time, we organise local trail rides and trail riding weekends away. The club runs two major competitions each year - a dressage competition, usually in February, and a one day event, usually in winter. Club members enjoy reduced entry fees to these competitions. There is also an annual combined adult riding club competition known as STARCC.

Lunch is generally available on training days or event, and provides a chance to mingle. Dress is casual but there are uniform items available for purchase. These are optional however, if representing the BRC at other events, the team will be required to turn out in the same attire.

We are an EA affiliated club and the safety of our members and their horses is paramount - we expect all our members to participate in accordance with our Code of Conduct.

**New members are always welcome!**

## What's New

### **\*Dressage Classic Update\***

New date for the Classic has been set for 23rd March. -If you have entered and can no longer attend please email us at 2mybrc@gmail.com.

We will acknowledge your email and arrange your refund. If we do not hear from you by 14 March we will assume you can attend the new date. -If you have already entered and will be attending the new date you do not need to do anything.

-If you have not entered but wish to Global Entries Online will be opened for new closing at midnight on 14th March.



## **BRC Uniform**

Our Club colours are Black and White. We have a lovely selection of clothing to purchase at wholesale prices and includes the Club logo embroidered on each item. Our suppliers is Aussie Clobber, which means you may try on clothing before ordering through the club. Aussie Clobber are located at 1/40 Raws Cres, Hume, ACT.

Our range of uniform options are available below - all prices include GST and a fee for embroidery of our logo. To place an order, complete the online order and send. You can then either do an EFT or mail your cheque payment to BRC, PO Box 512, Bungendore NSW 2621. If you do an EFT, PLEASE ensure you reference "(your Name) - Uniform" so that we can match orders with payments. With prior arrangement, you can bring cash or cheque to a club activity day and pay the uniform committee member.