



Hoofbeats



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Prez Sez

Hello WRC members,

I remember as an eight-year-old the pure joy of having a pony...of coming home from school and riding bareback (for what felt like hours—sorry Lady!); of going on little ‘adventures’ and just immersing myself in everything horse.

Now, I ride because I enjoy the competitive aspect of it and I like to challenge myself and attain new heights. Sometimes, getting caught up in the ‘sport’ of riding can blur that 8-year-old’s delight at the mere ability to be in the presence of horses. I have to remind myself, ‘Aren’t we lucky?’ What a fortunate lot we are to be able to enjoy and be a part of the horse scene, that we are able to pursue the dreams we had as young (or not so young) people.

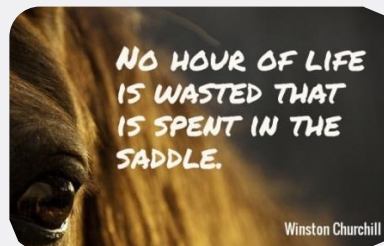
Sometimes, it pays to stop and smell the roses (or leather) and reflect on just how horses can make us feel alive and joyful.

Many of you will simply enjoy the camaraderie of riding with other members; some will enjoy the competitions and working towards your goals; while others will enjoy learning more, gaining new knowledge and skills.

I think we’re very fortunate to have a club like WRC, where no matter where your passion lies, we try to cater for all.

To that end, we have a great mix of events coming up. There’s showhunter in March, dressage in April, an Inhand Day in May, and an introduction to animal communication clinic next month. We look forward to seeing you at one (or all!) of these.

Until next time, I’ll leave you with one of my favourite quotes...



Happy riding!
Jessie



UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOWHUNTER ROUND 1: Sunday March 25, Huapai PC

DRESSAGE DAY 3: Saturday April 7th, Woodhill Sands

ANIMAL COMMUNICATION CLINIC: Thursday April 26th, Coatesville Hall

INHAND DAY: Saturday May 5th, Woodhill Sands

DRESSAGE DAY 4: Saturday May 19th, venue tbc

HAVE-A-GO DRESSAGE DAY: Saturday June 9th, Woodhill Sands

SHOWHUNTER ROUND 2: Saturday June 23rd, Woodhill Sands



See our [Events page](#) for more info on all events, and entry details.

Further updates posted on Facebook.

GOT YOUR MEDICAL ARMBAND?

Just a reminder that all riders are required to wear a medical armband at our events. It should clearly show **your name**, **any medical issues or allergies**, and the **details of your contact person** in case of emergency (ICE).

If you leave your armband behind on the day, don't worry— the Club has spares you can purchase for \$10. Just ask the event organiser.

LATEST RESULTS

DRESSAGE DAY 2: November 26th, results on [Equestrian Entries](#)

CHRISTMAS DERBY: December 16th, results on [WRC website](#)

MINI-ODE: January 13th, results on [WRC website](#)

CLOSED RIBBON DAY: March 11th, results to come on website



“Adjusting to a new career”: meet animal chiropractor Jo Bentley

Horses have always been part of Jo’s life – from her horse-mad childhood in South Africa, to working as a top-level event groom in the UK...and now, with her animal chiropractic business in New Zealand. This article tells you more about our WRC member (and fabulous club sponsor!)

Jo grew up in Durban, South Africa, in a non-horsey family. “No-one knows where my love of horses came from...and I think they’re still waiting for me to grow out of this phase!”

Helping out at the local riding school in exchange for extra rides, Jo soon started volunteering to ride the horses that no-one else wanted to. This began her passion for working with young and so-called ‘difficult’ horses. She was given her first horse, an ex-racehorse, when she was 14.

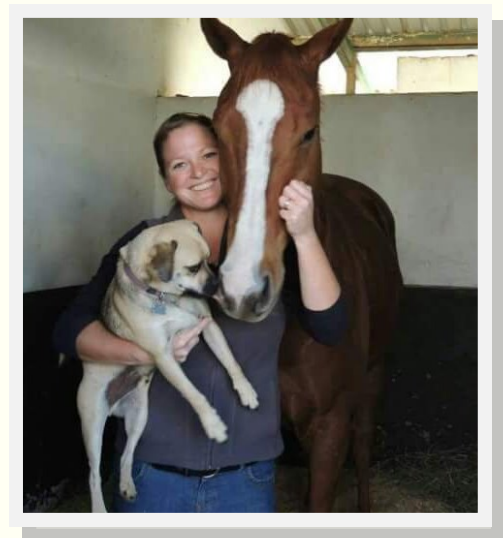
“I had been riding him on the track, and the trainer was retiring. I think my Dad had a few beers too many after golf one night, and agreed to take the horse off him! I had an awesome three years schooling him up before I sadly had to sell him. He went on to become a very successful eventer.”

On leaving school, Jo then spent a year working as an eventing groom in the UK; where she got to experience Badminton, Burghley and other 3-star events.

Move to New Zealand

During her university days – and then later while running her own human chiropractic practice in Johannesburg – she continued to compete other people’s horses up to 1* level. She had just produced her own TB to 1m eventing when, in 2015, a new life in New Zealand suddenly beckoned.

“We got an awesome opportunity through my husband’s work to move to New Zealand. So along with our dog Gnu and cat Boo, we packed up and jumped on a plane!”



- Jo with her dog Gnu and Oscar, her TB in South Africa

Dream career

Having sold her corporate-based practice in South Africa, Jo was ready to realise her dream of becoming an animal chiropractor.

“I’d always wanted to treat horses and animals instead of people! So in 2016, I took the plunge and went across to Kansas to do the conversion course;

- contd overleaf

which is only available to chiropractors or vets.”

Less than a year later, Jo has established a busy animal-based practice called Well-Adjusted Animals. She divides her time between working with dogs and small animals one day a week (at Pet & Vet in Milford, and K9 Aqua Therapy in Drury); and the rest of the time travelling to treat horse clients.



- Jo competing at CNN* in South Africa, on a Namibian warmblood mare she produced

“My ‘treatment room’ can be in the corner of a field, or in someone’s flash stable; and I travel all over the place... from South Auckland, Woodhill area, and up north around Warkworth.”

Her horse clients range from miniatures to big warm-bloods or TBs; and all kinds of riding disciplines.

“It’s awesome to see how many people are serious about the well-being of their horses...whether they are happy hackers to competitive riders. My passion is being able to help horses perform their jobs better, and make their lives more comfortable.”

Current horses

When she’s not treating animals, Jo finds time to school and compete two dressage horses. They include a lovely 14-year-old Hanoverian L3 horse (“and a very typical chestnut mare!”), called Winters Dream Miro; plus a handsome 10-year-old Friesian gelding named Beautiful Obsidian (Teddy), who competes at L1. The horses are owned by Judith Wear and Margaret Garrett respectively.

“Hopefully in the near future I will get back into eventing...as I really miss the cross-country and the camaraderie that goes with it. You know what they say...red on the right, white on the left, and crazy in the middle!”



- On board “Teddy”, the Friesian gelding Jo currently competes at L1

To contact Jo:

Check out Well Adjusted Animal Chiropractic Services on Facebook, email welladjustedanimals@gmail.com
Or call: 022 390 4661

“ALL IN A DAY’S WORK”

As a qualified animal chiropractor, here are some common questions Jo gets asked.

Q. What are the benefits of chiropractic treatment for horses (and other animals)?

Chiropractic is an effective means of restoring and maintaining the strength, vigour and well-being of your animal. By exploring

and treating the root causes of your animal’s aches, pains and illnesses – we can ensure improved performance and quality of life.

Maintaining proper structural alignment helps with optimal function of the muscles, nerves and tissues supporting the joints. This results in improved movement, stance and flexibility. This alignment also promotes increased agility, endurance and overall performance.

The broader benefits include superior immune function, a healthier metabolism, and a vibrant nervous system. This facilitates the animal’s natural ability to heal.

Animal chiropractic is NOT intended to replace veterinary medicine, or be the primary health care method for your animal. It’s an integrative method that is used in conjunction with good veterinary care.

Q. How does it integrate with other treatments?

Just like people, some animals respond better to a different type of care, or a combination of things. Trying to find that right balance is so important. It’s also important to realise when the problem is a veterinary concern, and refer back to the vet.



Q. What type of problems do you help with?

- Uneven strides/abnormal gait/stiffness
- Resistance to being ridden/bucking
- Reduced performance
- Changes in posture
- Difficulty /inability to collect, or take the correct lead
- Disuniting in the canter
- Difficulty flexing at poll or bending to one/both sides
- Unhappy when being groomed/touched/saddled or girthing up



Q. What about preventative or maintenance treatment?

Just like with people, the earlier you can correct/fix and problem – the less ‘layers’ and other issues/compensations you have to deal with. Pain is usually the last sign to show itself. So if we can treat an animal proactively before they have “broken down”, we can ensure they are working correctly and at their best.

MEMBER GIVEAWAY

Win a **free consultation and treatment** with Well Adjusted Animals! The winner will receive a 1-hour chiropractic consultation for your horse, located within the Waitemata District.

To enter, email libby@wrc.org.nz with Member Giveaway in the subject line. Please include your full name, membership number, and contact phone number.

We’ll draw a random winner on March 31st, to be announced via our Facebook page (we’ll also contact the winner directly).



CLUB VIEWS & LOCAL NEWS



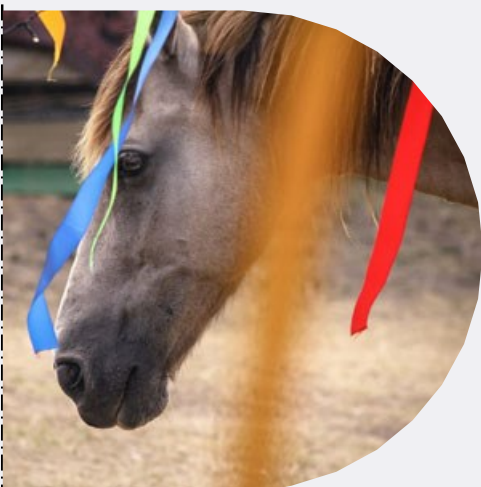
FACEBOOK ETIQUETTE

Our Facebook page now has more than **3,700 people** in the group! As well as updating members with Club news and events, it's become a go-to resource for sharing ideas and support, and building a community of horse-owners.

With so many people now on board, we thought we'd give a quick recap on the expected etiquette:

- ◆ **Keyboard warriors.** Sharing ideas and opinions is encouraged; it's how we learn from each other. But occasionally things can get a little heated, especially around those 'hot-button topics' among horse-owners (you know the ones we mean!) It's important we keep all discussions respectful and polite.
- ◆ **Defamatory-type comments.** We will not tolerate any personal attacks on individuals or businesses. (This includes sharing a negative experience about a business or product). These comments will be removed and any repeat offenders will be blocked from the group. If you see anything inappropriate, please contact our administrator Jody Paddy.
- ◆ **Selling goods & services.** The buy-and-sell of gear, horses for sale, local properties and horse-related services is fine with us. However we don't encourage overtly commercial posts—with the exception, of course, of our wonderful Club sponsors!

2018 SPIRIT HORSE FESTIVAL



Another successful Spirit Horse Festival was held at Dune Lakes Lodge from February 9-11.

You can check out a [six-minute video](#) made about the festival. And if you feel inspired to join in next year, planning is already underway for February 2019.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or queries about the Festival, please get in touch with Rosemary Wyndham-Jones.

www.spirithorsefestival.org

NEW WALKING GROUP: WAITEMATA HUNT CLUB

Waitemata Hunt Club has launched a new "walking only" group at every weekend hunt.

The cost to cap is \$40 per hunt, plus a one-off NZHA fee. The ride is usually around 2-3 hours, followed by a hunt breakfast.

To find out more, contact Hollie Joss on 021 701 456.

“THE BODY BUILDERS”: an intro to rider biomechanics

In the last issue of Hoofbeats, we profiled Kumeu-based instructor **Sue Pennington**. Sue is an accredited **Ride With Your Mind (RWYM)** coach, which is the training method pioneered by Britain’s famous Mary Wanless. In this article, Sue explains the ideas behind rider biomechanics, and how she uses it in her teaching.

What is rider biomechanics?

“As a RWYM coach, I help the rider understand what they need to do in their bodies to be able to improve their horse’s way of going. Horses weren’t designed to have riders on their back... so as riders, we need to be responsible for how we sit on the horse. If you’ve ever tried to pick up a child that doesn’t want to be picked up, you’ll know what I mean! That’s why it’s important we can distribute our weight more evenly over the horse’s ribs and back.

“When you watch a naturally talented or elite rider, they seem to have a magic ability to positively influence any horse they are riding. The horse immediately responds to their riding, and moves more naturally and beautifully.

“Through my RWYM training, I have a better understanding of what these riders are doing (usually without realising it!) My aim is to help any rider develop this same feel, and have the ability to positively influence the horse they are riding.

“It’s about helping the rider to become aware of the useful (and not-so-useful) patterns in their riding. It’s also about learning to spot when the horse gives them the “thumbs up” or encouragement that they are on the right track.”

What does it help with?

“It’s believed that about 80% of “horse issues” are actually rider-related...and these can be fixed by improving the rider’s biomechanics. RWYM coaching is about helping the rider to become more aware of what is happening in the horse, and what they need to do to help the horse become straighter and more in balance.

“At some point, nearly all riders will feel frustrated with their riding progress, or feel as if they have become ‘stuck’. RWYM coaching provides a roadmap to start changing those habits or patterns that are restricting their progress.

“For some riders, this could mean feeling safe and being able to positively influence the horse without pulling on its mouth. For other riders it is about having the horse working in balance with straightness and rhythm. Ultimately, it’s about engaging the horse’s hindquarters, activating the horse’s core, and allowing the horse to stretch over its back...while still staying up through the wither, balanced through the shoulders and “seeking the contact”. All this is achieved while still being ethical in the horse’s training. I teach the rider “how” to achieve this by working on the rider.”

The rider’s responsibility

“I believe it’s our responsibility, as horse riders and owners, to better prepare ourselves and our horses for ridden work. For the horse, this can include groundwork exercises. Personally, I follow the principles of Straightness Training.

“As riders, we also need to be fit for the task of riding. No matter what type of riding you do, I strongly recommend doing some kind of unmounted exercise. I’m not talking gym-hard muscle tone – in fact that can sometimes make a rider look brittle - but rather a rider having soft positive tone throughout their body.

“If we expect our horses to be in self-carriage, have fluid movement, and be willing to move forward; we should also be asking if we’re able to do the same ourselves! Yoga and pilates are especially helpful for riders, as they ensure that the muscles remain flexible and supple. They also address breathing, which is really important when riding.

Correcting rider asymmetry

“A balanced, straight rider can help their horse to be straighter and more in balance when being ridden. Unfortunately, neither horse nor rider are born symmetrical. Once we add injuries and poor posture to the equation, things get even more difficult!

“My aim is to help riders get a better understanding of their natural asymmetries (and possibly some of their beliefs) that might be getting in the way of their riding progress. Most riders don’t have an awareness of what is happening. Or they may be aware of what’s happening, but are not sure how to fix the problem.

“Often the horse will mirror the rider’s asymmetry. For example, I recently worked with a rider who mentioned that their horse always falls in on a left-handed circle. I asked the rider if she was aware that on a left-handed circle that she collapsed through her ribs on her left side. She wasn’t aware of this pattern in her body. I asked her to feel like she was stretching through her left side and shortening the distances between her ribs on the right.

“To her, this felt like she was actually leaning to the outside (right) of the circle. But “surprisingly”, the horse didn’t fall in on the circle - he actually went all the way around *contd*

hugging the side of the arena. This small adjustment, which felt huge to the rider, was all the horse required to better understand what the rider wanted. It is often the very subtle 1–2mm changes in the rider that make the biggest difference in the horse.

Getting hands-on.

“It’s part of my job to find the language, images and learning style that works best for each rider I’m coaching. I need to see the rider responding to my instruction or image – and if they don’t, I have to find another way to explain my intention. Moving their body with my hands, or providing riders with resistances, often helps them get the feel sense of what is correct.

“For example, the rider that pulls on the inside rein to make a the turn onto the circle or centre line may not realise that she is pulling the inside rein, loosening the outside rein, twisting her body to the inside, losing the horse’s shoulders and “falling” onto the circle or centre line. To help her become more aware of how she can fix this pattern, I might place my hand on her arm above her elbow of the outside arm and ask her to gently push my hand back towards the horse’s hindquarters. Then I’ll place my open hand in front of her inside rein hand, which is in the holding the reins position, and ask her to push my hand gently towards the horse’s nose. This will give her the feel sense of where her hands should be. This resistance exercise works much better than me simply shouting ‘more outside rein, stop pulling on the inside rein!’

“What we do with our hands as riders is often a symptom of something else going on in the rider’s body. I might also explain that her inside thigh needs to be like a pillar that the horse has to go around; and that the outside thigh needs to bring the horse’s outside shoulder and front leg around onto the circle or centre line. To get this idea across, I might use images of tram lines, or a balance beam; and the need to keep the horse on the tram lines at all times.

“I use also Franklin Balls, therabands and other props to help riders get a better feel sense of what ‘right’ feels like.

Over-riding the brain

“During a lesson, I always have my phone camera ready to take pictures or videos of riders. This is because the brain and the body don’t come with a spirit level...and even tiny millimetre changes can feel huge to the rider. Until I show them a picture of what the weird (i.e new and correct) feeling looks like, their brain will continually be saying ‘it’s wrong’ and ‘that can’t be right’.

“Overall, my goal for each lesson is to improve the rider’s sense of what ‘right’ feels like; as well as an understanding of how they got to that place. They need to be able to go away with the ‘how’ of what they need to practice.

“This will ensure they practice the right thing for correct muscle development, and not spend time practising the wrong thing and developing the wrong muscles.



Before and after...these photos show how working on the rider’s position can improve the horse’s way of going. This was achieved in just one lesson.



“Riders usually need to go through the four stages of learning to change a pattern or behaviour that is not helping them achieve their riding goals. Initially, they might not be aware of the incompetence (i.e the pattern that isn’t being useful to the riding). In the second stage, they become aware of the incompetence and start learning about the skills to improve it. In the third stage of learning, they will have to consciously think about using the skill correctly, in order to become competent. In the fourth and final stage, they use the skills without having to consciously think of it. Their muscle memory is now doing it for them.

“We call this last stage ‘unconscious competence’. Naturally talented riders have effectively skipped straight to this stage. They’ve always done things correctly, but because they haven’t had to learn it – they often can’t explain to others *how* they do it!”

A word from our sponsor...

A Balancing Act: Sweetening horse-sour pastures

Why can some horses be let out on pasture, unrestricted...and for others, you wouldn't dare?

There may not be a silver bullet answer to these troubles, but you can certainly make a start in the right direction by giving your horse-soured paddocks a little TLC.

Healthy horse pastures and healthy horses rely on healthy soils. A lot of the problems we see with 'grass-affected horses' can be caused by mineral deficiencies. The grass might look healthy, but lacks key minerals - especially calcium and magnesium. There are huge health benefits to horses and other livestock by having correctly-balanced soils.

Horses are particularly hard on pastures. They "sour" paddocks by overgrazing and with their daily deposits of dung and urine. These areas become rank and are high in nitrogen and potassium, throwing the soil's mineral balance out of whack.

Bringing your soil back into balance needn't be a chore. A simple way of providing the necessary calcium and magnesium is by using Equi-lise. Equi-lise also contains phosphorus, sulphur and a small amount of Selenium too. Being in pellet form and 100% plant-available means the amount required is much less compared to using straight aglime. It is super-easy to apply to small horse paddocks either by hand, or a small push spreader or tow behind spreader.

Using Equi-lise will raise the pH of your paddocks. This will help increase the microbiology in the soil, helping to break down the manure and remove the 'sour' patches in the paddock, enabling your horses to graze your paddocks more evenly. Sweet!

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Member profile: meet **Debbie Knapp**

Occupation: Analyst
Horses: Georgia & Indie

Home life is: "Chaotic! I live on 40 acres with lots of fat animals including cows, chickens, horses, cats and very large spoilt slobbery dogs (St Bernards). I work fulltime but love coming home to my menagerie and the farm. Even if I swear I am not doing another winter on the farm and wish to live in a house with a concrete backyard!"

About my horses: "A long time ago I obtained a stunning-looking TB mare who happened to be an absolute nutter, but being the stubborn person I am I persevered and got nowhere with her. So at the ripe age of 15yrs I decided to breed from her and chose Galaxy Pourewa, as he has an amazing temperament and I figured I should therefore get a half-sane horse! And that I did. A gorgeous coloured filly that I named Georgia. So being greedy I sent the mare back to Pourewa to try again for colour and got a bay filly (typical) who I named Indie! Anyway these two girls are now 8 and 11 years old, and are my superstars. Both girls are well-rounded in all disciplines, the only thing they haven't done yet is a hunt. Georgia is like me; lazy, food-orientated and likes standing around chatting. However she can pull it out the bag when required and is amazing. Her sister Indie is athletic, loves her work, hates standing around and is bossy; so two very different girls to ride."

I'd describe our partnership as: "Georgia and I are two peas in a pod. This girl is totally safe and we have a lot of fun together; she looks after me when I get it wrong and is very forgiving. She loves the forest and its the only time she walks out (haha). Indie, well, I'm not as confident on her as she is a talented jumper and I'm not! She loves jumping but is not forgiving if I get it wrong. In saying that, I'm learning to actually ride instead of being looked after. I love the fact she is a forward horse and in many ways is easier to ride than Georgia."

Our best moments together/highlights so far include: "Every moment I remain in the saddle is a highlight. But seriously, I have done very well on these girls winning a number of dressage, show hunter, show jumping and xc events. But my favorite time is in the forest hacking out with my young dog Cooper in tow."

What I enjoy about WRC events: "I have a lot to thank WRC for! Both girls wouldn't be as well-rounded if it wasn't for the fantastic multi discipline events which cater for all riders. It was a great platform for my girls as 4yr-olds to be introduced to and try lots of different things in a fun and well-organised environment. But it goes without saying the fantastic and supportive members that are always there to help, encourage and laugh with."



“Hot enough for ya?”: heat issues in horses.

The country has just survived one of the hottest summers on record, and especially around these parts, it sure felt like it! Every horse-owner should be aware of the dangers of their animals over-heating; whether from the environment, or due to exercise and other factors. **Dr Dave van Zwanenberg** from **Vets North** provides some timely tips.

* How do horses cope with the heat?

Much like humans, a horse sweats in order to help to cool themselves down. When the sweat evaporates from the skin, this reduces internal body temperature. They can also breathe out heat in expired air, as well as via the air flowing over their body.

Also like us, horses will also drink more water in hot weather. A 500kg horse that's not in work will drink about 30 litres of water a day. When working hard in hotter weather, a horse can lose around 30 litres a day due to sweat loss alone – so their requirement for water can increase dramatically. Research shows that horses need around 15 days to acclimatise to hot and/or humid conditions and be able to perform. They need to physiologically adapt to regulating their body heat in the new environment.

* Symptoms of heat stress

If you suspect your horse is suffering from heat exhaustion, you should take its rectal temperature. This temperature should not exceed 39.5 degrees Celsius. If the horse also has a high heart rate (above 60 beats per minute), and its breathing is affected, immediate veterinary attention is advised. Some other signs to look for include: the *absence* of sweating, dullness, stumbling, lying down, seeking water and perhaps splashing themselves.



A horse's water requirements can increase dramatically

However overheated horses that have experienced electrolyte loss may lose the urge to drink.

In severe cases, when a horse is dehydrated, fatigued and with major electrolyte imbalances, they can develop a syndrome known as 'thumps'. This is an irregular spasming of the diaphragm, which causes a convulsive twitching of the flanks and sometimes an accompanying hiccupping sound.

* The role of electrolytes

Most horses owners know something about electrolytes (because this also applies to humans). When your horse sweats, he or she loses both water and minerals. This means during periods of intense heat and/or exercise, you also need to replace minerals in addition to providing plenty of clean water.

Providing access to a salt lick or mineral block is a good start.

Performance horses should have their diet supplemented with the full spectrum of minerals (ie. those found in sweat). Feeding this diet prior to hard work or competition, when the horse may be sweating heavily, will help to replenish their natural reserves of electrolytes. Your veterinarian or nutrition specialist will be able to advise on this.

*** Other preventative measures**

Ideally, your paddocks will provide plenty of natural shade. Inappropriate use of covers in hot weather – or covering during or immediately after heavy work – will interfere with the cooling effect of sweat evaporating from the skin’s surface. If your horse is sweating under its covers, you should remove them. To cool down your horse after exercise, offer him small amounts of water. Hose him with cool or tepid water (not icy cold, as that will close the pores); and walk him around slowly in the shade. Cold bandaging can help with tendon recovery, as well as the hooves and soles if necessary.

Avoid using ice directly, as it may shock the capillaries. An evaporant coolant agent is ideal.

If a horse becomes severely heat-stressed, veterinary attention is advised. The vet may need to administer intravenous fluids (and in the case of thumps, this can be up to 20L-40L of fluids, with electrolytes added).



Hose your horse with cool or tepid water (not icy cold)

* * * * *

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Here are some pics from our **Closed Ribbon Day** held on March 11 at Woodhill Sands. Thanks to Karen Urwin for taking the Supreme sash pic (below left), and to our sponsor Farm Source Albany for providing the \$50 prize voucher.





WRC SCHOLARSHIP WINNER: CLAIRE MADDEN

Claire Madden was one of two lucky winners of the WRC 2017 Scholarship. She used her \$300 prize for flatwork lessons with instructor Greg Smith. She had a lesson on two of her show team— 11-year-old Gotham Bromach (Golly), and 10-year-old Major Ouch (Ouch). Both horses are standardbreds that Claire started and schooled up herself.

I chose to have my lessons with: Greg Smith, who I have had lessons with in the past. I find he has an easy-to-understand way of explaining what he is after and how to achieve it. He doesn't mind that I am riding standardbreds and has a great sense of humour, so when things go completely wrong (as they can do), I'm not left feeling like an absolute failure.



Softening of the hands and allowing Golly more freedom with his head.

As this is something Greg had been working on with me previously, I had developed a bad habit of holding on to Golly's mouth a bit too much. So to make the lesson harder and to stretch my brain to the maximum, I had to let his head go so he could move more forward; while using my seat and legs to slow him down and bring his hind end under himself more rather than kicking out the back. Towards the end of the lesson we were starting to get some real WOW moments.



Developing the 'sit' with Golly

Lesson #2: Following my lesson with Golly, I switched on to Ouch, who is the least experienced of my team under saddle. Ouch was bred as a pacer, winning six races, and has struggled a bit with converting to being a show and dressage horse, especially when it comes to canter.

Ouch can be very strong-willed and arrogant, but he has a lot of potential which Greg was really able to pull out of him during our lesson.

With Ouch, it was again about me letting his head go more forward, and keeping his hind end engaged. After establishing that Ouch can really trot, we moved on to canter...which at times had both Greg and I in fits of laughter at Ouch's not-so-elegant attempts.

A mix of upward and downwards transitions into trot and canter, as well as stretching him out down the long side of the arena, saw Ouch finally starting to find a rhythm. But this is definitely still a work in progress.

Thank you to WRC for providing the opportunity to continue training and improving my riding, and improving my horses as well. I'm excited to see what both these horses can achieve in the future.



Sometimes it went to plan...mastering the trot on Ouch (above)



And sometimes it didn't...'developing' the canter.



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Conditions of Entry

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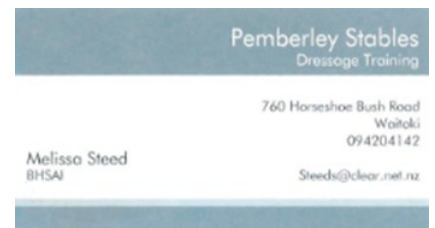


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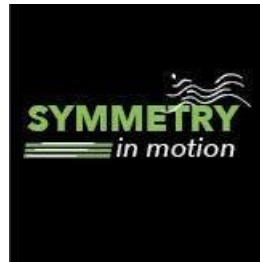
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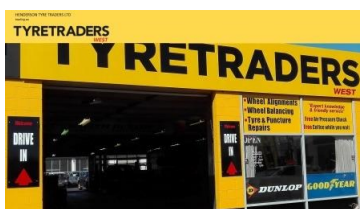
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