

Diary dates in brief

- **16th June.** Rally
- **23rd June.** Gear sale
- **3 July** Committee meeting
- **18 July** Watercolour evening
- **31 July** KRC AGM
- **25th August.** Combined training day

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Kapiti Riding Club



May 2013

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What a beautiful place to live...

Just two days ago the whole sky was lit up with the most magnificent sunset. Strong tones of blazing orange paled to beautiful tones of salmon pink and apricot, it was a sight to behold. But as you look around our beautiful part of the world, there are many stunning sights to behold:-

The Tararua's provide a striking backdrop to the flat pastures that drift down towards the sea.

The strong outline of Kapiti Island, always there for us to admire as we head along the beach. Even on the foggiest of mornings, it still manages to peek above the clouds and remind us of its presence.

The meandering rivers around Otaki and Waikanae provide a change of scenery from the continuous changing tides of the seafront.

The stunning sand beaches around Peka Peka and Te Horo offer peace and tranquility with idyllic golden sand, perfect for leaving hoofprints!

It's a great part of the world to own and ride a horse. There are many fabulous rides to enjoy on the warmest of Winter days. It's great to be part of a thriving riding club too, with passionate riders who enjoy the opportunity to get involved, get out there and have fun!

The closed ribbon day was a great event for members to turn up, mount up and enjoy. Well done to all who took part and a very BIG thank you to the organizing committee; Nikki, Gael and Melda. What a team :)

Happy reading....Sam

In detail

Dressage

Dressage is a French term, meaning 'training'. The sport is defined by the IEF (International Equestrian Federation). Dressage competitions are held at all levels, from complete amateurs to the World Equestrian Games. At the international level, dressage tests governed by the FEI are the Prix St. Georges, Intermediare I, Intermediare II, and Grand Prix. The dressage tests performed at the Olympic Games Dressage competition are Grand Prix. This level of test demands the most skill and concentration from both horse and rider.

In dressage competitions, successful training at the various levels is demonstrated through the performance of "tests"; a prescribed series of movements ridden within a standard arena.

Judges evaluate each movement on the basis of an objective standard appropriate to the level of the test and assign each movement a score from zero to ten – zero being "not executed" and 10 being "excellent". A score of 9 is very good and is a high mark, while a competitor achieving all 6s (or 60% overall) should be considering moving on to the next level.

The standard arena 20 m by 60 m is used for tests in both dressage and eventing. The standard dressage arena letters are A-K-V-E-S-H-C-M-R-B-P-F. The letters in the middle of the arena are D-L-X-I-G, with X marking the center line. At the start of the test, the horse enters at A. There is always a judge sitting at C.

Competing at dressage begins with Introductory level tests where riders need only walk and trot or training and first level tests primarily asking for a walk, trot and canter. At rated competitions, horses and riders advance through a graduated series of nationally defined levels, with tests of increasing difficulty at each level.

At Grand Prix level, movements include Piaffe, Half pass, Passage, Extended gaits at trot and canter, Collected gaits at trot and canter, Flying changes and Pirouettes either 180 or 360 degrees. For the freestyle test (where riders and horses perform choreographed patterns to music), riders may demonstrate all the Grand Prix movements as well as double canter pirouettes, Pirouettes in piaffe and half pass in passage.

The dressage training scale is often shown as a pyramid with each stage progressing to the next. Most trainers agree that each stage is interconnected, requiring each to be well established before moving on. The training scale includes;

Rythm and Regularity

Relaxation

Contact

Impulsion

Straightness

Collection

Want to have a go?

The KRC Rally on 16th June will provide some basic instruction and get you started.

Events

- **Sunday 16th June** - KRC Rally. Waikanae Arena.

There will be 3 instructors at this event, with Sarah Inglis, Melda Gibson and Natalie Page as the confirmed instructors.

- **Sunday 23rd June** - Gear Sale

From noon at Pony Tales, 36 Akatarawa Road

Phone Jackie Gilmore (293 8161) to confirm if you are coming along and if you will be a seller. Some tables will be available at the event. Doors will open at 12:30pm for buyers.

- **Wednesday 3 July** - Committee meeting

Committee meeting at Sandra Ray's, 71 Aston Road North, Waikanae Downs.

8pm. Follow the long driveway right down to the bottom.

- **Thursday 18 July** - Water colour painting evening.

Melda Gibson is having an evening where you can have a go at painting an A4 size water colour picture of your horse's head (or your dog or whatever).

This is going to be held at Nicky Robinson's; 55 Kensington drive, Peka Peka. Starting at 7.30pm. You need to bring an A4 size copy (photocopy) of a picture that you wish to paint and a pencil and rubber. Everything else will be supplied for a cost of \$5. We have held these evenings previously and they are very successful (even those who aren't very artistic have great success!!). BYO refreshments.

- **Wednesday 31 July** - KRC AGM to be held at Waikanae Pony Club rooms starting at 8pm.

Upcoming events

25th August—combined training day at Waikanae Park

New routine!

Recent rallies have brought great numbers of club members along, which is fantastic to see. An increase in numbers also provides the need for more structure, to ensure that everyone gets the most from the day.

Firstly the club is responding to the increase in participation and ensuring that future rallies will have an increase in the number of instructors available.

9:30am Rally set up. New faces are desperately needed to help support the events.

Let the Rally organiser you are there for the event. They will be wearing a hi-vis vest. See if you are needed to help out before tacking up!

Listen out for the bell which will indicate the start of the event. This will happen promptly at 10am

The end time for the rally will be 12 noon.

Closed ribbon day

We had a total of 14 riders attend and all had a great time. The sub-committee had some interesting games - pairs bending while holding some men's ties tied together between the riders and a fancy dress type game which involved eating half a weetbix, and egg and spoon race (actually potato and spoon). The 'do a trick' flat class produced some interesting tasks - sliding off the back of ponies, ducking underneath them, flip off the side etc. On the other hand, some horses stood there and looked bored and not moving a muscle while their owners tried to get them to do their trick that had been practiced, to no avail. The jumping was interesting too with groups of four going all at once - a bit of a challenge. All in all a great day with a shared lunch at the end. Many thanks to Melda, Nicki and Gail for organising this day. And a big thanks to our judges and helpers on the day.

Champion of the day was Jackie Forbes



Reserve Champion - Mary Pagnamenta

RESULTS

There are no results for this newsletter.

PLEASE remember to send in your results to:

minxpalmer@slingshot.co.nz so that they can be included in the next newsletter. Our club members do like to hear how we are all getting on.

The club would like to have a 'portable gate' built so that it can be used at rallies to practice opening gates for obstacle courses. We are looking for a good design for something that is easily moveable and will not fall over!! If there is anyone out there who can design something to be built, let us know. It would not be a full length gate but a lot shorter.

Any bright ideas will be welcome.

Email Angie at gallandz@paradise.net.nz

Reminders.

Don't forget to phone **0223 104788** if you are worried that an event will be cancelled due to weather conditions. The latest there will be a message is 8.30am on the day.

Please clean up all horse poo, hay and rubbish from around your float/truck and pathways as well as from all weather arena and surrounding area. Please take it home with you until a better solution is sorted out

We welcome members bringing new people along. They can come to 3 rallies but then they must decide if they want to join.

