

Diary dates in brief

November

- **17th** River trek from Sandra Ray's property

December

- **4th** Committee meeting. Sandra De Ruiter
- **7th** KRC Xmas Dinner.
- **8th** - Have a go day
- **25th / 26th January** 2014 NITE

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Kapiti Riding Club



October 2013

President:	Karen Trotter	042983494
Vice President:	Sandra de Ruiter	063643092
Secretary:	Angie Galland	04 2972142
Treasurer:	Val Ballinger	04 2937504
Dressage convener:	Cathy Devenport	04 2981763
Show Jumping convener:	Melda Gibson	06 3640475
Cross Country convener:	Marcella Bates	021 471481
Social Convener:	Lesley McKenzie	04 2936311
Newsletter Editor:	Sam Palmer	06 3643239
Newsletter Distribution;	Sandra de Ruiter	06 3643092
Rally Co-ordinator:	Sandra Ray	027 6486379 or 04 2935505

Finding the right one

It's been an interesting journey, trying to find my next horse. This is the stage of the process you either love, or hate. So far, I haven't met many people who enjoy the process of actually buying a new horse. There are plenty who enjoy the opportunity to try a new horse, or even ride one for a friend, but those who enjoy the challenges of buying a horse are few and far between.

There is the challenge of finding the right horse, with the right temperament to match your needs as a rider and an individual with your own closet of positive and negative horsey experiences.

Then there is the challenge of learning a whole new language deciphering the TradeMe adverts, so far my dictionary definitions consist of the following:

Forward moving = bolts on the beach

Needs a confident rider = not for the faint hearted

Coming back into work = hasn't been ridden for ages

Trucks well = won't get on the float

Recently = last week

Promising = has the potential if you have time and money

I know many people who are in the process of looking for their next perfect equestrian partner. It's a challenging and soul searching process, so I wish you all well. I have decided it's very much like an arranged marriage really. Not too easy to send the goods back, the dowry is huge, the potential amazing but equally hair raising and harrowing.

Enjoy the read, there's an indepth article on buying your new horse.....Sam,

KRC Events

November

- **17th** - River trek from Sandra Ray's. From Sandra Ray's property; Waikanae Downs. Riding out at 10am. BYO BBQ lunch if weather suitable. Parking for floats and trucks available, either in top paddocks (if wet) or bottom paddocks (if dry)

December

- **4th** Committee meeting. Sandra de Ruiters
- **7th** KRC Xmas Dinner. Location Karen Trotters
Phone Lesley on 293 6311 if you want to bring a specific dish. Otherwise Lesley will phone to ask you to bring a dish.
- **8th** - Have a go day. Flat classes and jumping

Future dates

The weekend of 1st/2nd March 2014 is Ginkhana weekend again at Graeme and Julia Wallace's place in Masterton.

It is a fun weekend away with your horse and like-minded riders. Each year the "Wallies" give a fun filled weekend with fun competitions (like a simple dressage test on a scooter!) and rides. This year they are going to try and get the Masterton Adult Club to join in to make it an interclub event. No problem if this does not happen as we will still have fun. If interested or you want to know more then give Sandra a ring (06 3643092).

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.

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.

Events

November

17th - Manawatu Saddle up. Manfield. Showing and pleasure classes

December

7th - Ohauri Valley dressage day

14th - Levin pony club open show jumping (from 30cm). Levin show grounds

NITE 2014

NITE has been confirmed for January 25th and 26th, 2014.

Team 1

Angie. Val. Sandra R. Sands D. Glenda. Nikki R

Team 2

Robyn M. Marcella. Claire. Jane. Nikki H. Emily T

WATRC

Upcoming CTR season dates

24 November Marton (New)

15 December

Rhona Fraser Challenge, Battle Hill (*Premier Points*)

WELCOME

A warm welcome is extended to the following new members:

- ◆ Sheryl McCormick
- ◆ Dave Fordyce
- ◆ Anne Herrington
- ◆ Cheryl Mc Cormick

Using Waikanae Cross Country course

KRC members can use Waikanae Cross Country course for schooling their **own** horses. It cannot be used to school other people's horses, or to take non-members over the course.

If you would like to use the course, please phone Heather McCaffrey on 022 152 1775 and let her know your preferred time and day.

Each month we are going to write an article on a different horse breed, experience or adventure. This month we are sharing our experiences of buying a horse as a return to riding adult.

We also get to hear from the 'experts' and their views on how to improve your chances of getting it right.

Thanks to our contributors; Gail, Hollie, Vanessa, Melda, Jane and Karen.

HELPFUL HIINTS....

Be certain about what you want the horse for. e.g. if you want to go for quiet hacks with your children on small ponies you would not be looking at a 3 or 4yo thoroughbred off the track.

Some basics for ANY horse. – tie up; safe to ride in traffic; no rear, buck, spin, bad shy; easy to catch, bridle, saddle, brush, put covers on/take off, pick up feet; doesn't kick or bite; good to shoe, float, truck; respects fences; can graze in a group or alone.

Stands still to mount, does not jog, prance when ridden.

Can EASILY walk, trot and canter when asked.

If you want to jump, can quietly and confidently jump the height you want to jump.

Can be left for days/weeks unriden and still be quiet if that's what you are likely to do.

Is an appropriate type for your grazing situation i.e. you wouldn't want a thoroughbred on swampy or very dry grazing and at the other end you wouldn't want a stocky-prone-to-fat cross-bred on dairy-farm-type grazing.

If you want to compete in ANYTHING make sure the horse is eligible. e.g. if you want to compete in Pleasure classes don't buy a horse that has had firsts/champions in any showing section at an A & P show.

Beware of ads that say the horse is doing high level work in any discipline (dressage, SJ, CC) if you want to compete in those disciplines. Ask what it's registered competition results are. You will often find the horse has never been registered and has only been working at home.

Proof of age is good and if you are interested, breeding details. May be important if you later breed from a mare.

Any horse under about 6 yo may be unpredictable. Don't write a horse off because it is over 10 yo. Depending what you want to do with it, most are useful to 20 yo.

“Don't let your favourite colour for a horse sway you. The horse is either suitable for your purpose or it's not”

My story

At 50 I bought my very first horse. In my younger years I rode whatever stock horse was in the paddock, and took them to PC in my teens.

This type of horse influenced what I looked for when I was in the enviable position of being able to buy a horse of my very own. I loved the sturdiness and substance of the stock horse, so a clyde x fitted the bill. Blue was purchased after one short ride on a very windy and wet day.

Learning to be responsible for him was a huge learning curve – covers, feed, routine all new to me. Having a young horse was a challenge that I don't think I rose to successfully – I am too much of a fair-weather rider, and my routines were too flexible to give him the confidence and solidity he needed.

So now, doing it all again, I am trying out many more horses than I did first time around, and this is giving me a much clearer picture of what I am looking for. If I find one I like I will ride it more than once before making a decision. I am not fixed on a type, rather I know what I am willing to compromise on, and what is non-negotiable – my safety, and having fun.

We all love horses and it is easy to fall in love with the wrong horse, every horse has good points ... even the ones that are not right for you.

HELPING YOU PLAN...

When deciding to buy a horse, a great place to start is to have a clear idea in your head (and on paper) of what you NEED rather than just what you want!

- What do you want to do with your horse?
- How much time do you have to put in to your horse and your riding?
- How much experience do you have?
- Will you ride alone mostly or in company?
- Will you be travelling your horse a lot?
- Do you have great grass or sparse grass; are you grazing with other or alone?

When going to try a horse, take an experienced and non-biased person along with you if possible that knows your abilities and expectations.

**BE
REALISTIC**

**and
BE
HONEST**

**with
yourself.**

It is not an ideal scenario for a green rider to buy a green horse so you can learn together... to be blunt, it generally ends in a case of the blind leading the blind and can be frustrating and soul destroying for both parties.

Trying a horse

When you go along to try a horse for the first time, keep an open mind, OBSERVE the attitude and ability of both the owner and the horse. Watch the owner ride, and don't be afraid to ask plenty of questions, and also ask the owner to show the horse in walk trot canter (and jump if that is what you want to do).

If it all looks good, and SAFE, don your hat and hop on.

Try the horse properly, walk trot and canter it yourself... and if you don't feel confident to do so. don't take it home!

If all goes well and you click with it and feel keen, then ask for a trial period... most people won't let you, but some do... if you can't take it on trial, be sure to go back and ride it on a different day, and if at all possible, in an unfamiliar place or at a show or pony

club rally or similar. Horses are often super reliable and quiet on their familiar home turf, but when in a different situation are far less confident.

QUESTIONS TO ASK, PART 1....

1. Firstly – is it yours to actually sell?
2. Any issues with soundness/soreness in last 12 months or prone to (laminitis, mudfever, tendon injuries, sacroiliac injuries etc), when was the last time you needed to get a vet and what was it for?
3. Reason for selling
4. Currently in Work? Amount of work in last 6 Months and Type Previous uses/ accomplishments with current rider
5. Previous history with prior owner
6. Clubs/Instructors that know of horse Name of previous owner(s)
7. Special care requirements (eg ongoing rehab, grass sensitive, staggers, corrective shoeing), paddocking
8. How long has the horse been for sale? How long have you had the horse? Why did you initially buy the horse? Has anyone made you an offer on the horse yet? Have you had any inquiries?
9. What's don't you like about the horse? This one stumps sellers but often you get quite an honest answer.

“Take an un-biased experienced person with you. To help you make an informed decision”

My story...

There is no denying that the prospect of purchasing a new horse is extremely exciting and it becomes very easy to get swept up and impatient to find your new friend.

My husband bought my first horse for me a little over 5 years ago and it was a condition of my move to his home country NZ. I hadn't ridden since I was in my teens and had no idea how much I didn't know! I was seduced by an advertisement online for a stunning black, young and very green percheron cross gelding and I revisited his picture countless times over the next few weeks and worked on my poor husband insisting that this horse would be perfect! Ummm!

Well my perfect horse was gorgeous but had no manners and was very green, he was a ball of anxiety and would pace the fence line constantly which in turn made me anxious. Having just moved to the country I had very few people to call on for advice and very soon felt out of my depth. I did ride him, he was very forward and I wasn't bothered by this but I lost all confidence handling him on the ground and felt my knowledge and skills were insufficient to do him justice. I received conflicting advice at this time with some people saying green on green doesn't work, or give it a go you can learn together! I felt in a total quandary as this horse was the love of my life and I always regretted selling him, though now I acknowledge it was the right thing to do.

Above all else I now know it is important to look at yourself, your capabilities and character to try to understand what type of horse would suit. It is always going to be tempting to go for the stunningly gorgeous one with fabulous movement but other factors should take priority in my opinion.

I now own a horse that I am happy to let my children play on and ride, she is older and been there done that, we have faced some challenges but that will always be the case! She is perfect for me.

My story...

Buying Harry, 7 year old TB (unraced) bred for Eventing

I saw him advertised on trade me and I fell in love with his pictures and description, plus he matched my budget.

I had one trial ride at owners house then I collected him a week later for a 3week trial.

During this trial i had him vet checked with agreement of the owner.

I rode him out on my own during his trial on beach, along roads, near parked quiet road digging equipment all to see his reaction. He proved good in all circumstances i put him through. He was pretty cruisy. I felt happy on him. I took him on rides out with a friend and on an adult riding club trek and obstacle day. He handled all this very well.

I am now selling him as i don't have the experience to train him. He is 7 but green. I feel sad about this and believe in hindsight, I should have been more realistic with my own abilities and experience of what I could take on.

QUESTIONS TO ASK, PART 2....

1. Any vices? How does it place in a herd (low, bossy etc), Current diet, Date of last vaccine, wormer, teeth etc.
2. Who do you have lessons with/who's your pony club DC/do you mind if I call them to talk about the horse?
3. Does it float/truck – either, neither?
4. Has it been anywhere near a stallion if it's a mare!
5. Who is your vet and can i contact them for any history
6. Who is your dentist and when did the horse's teeth last get checked? What is the schedule between dentist visits? Does the horse need sedating for dentist (or vet) visits?
7. Have you had any difficulty with saddle or bit fitting? What bit (and size) do you use ordinarily? Do you ever change bits for different events/disciplines?
8. Does the horse have any problem with minis/ponies/donkeys/alpacas/cows/sheep/pigs/birds/chooks/whatever applies to your situation/area
9. What is your ordinary feed regime? Does the horse need any special supplements or feed in order to maintain adequate weight? Do you need to restrict food in spring/summer?

RESULTS

Sam Sebire got 1st in the Horse 60cm AM5 IJO and 2nd in the Horse 70cm AM5 IJO at the Otaki Jumping Day on 5 year old Oh Behave

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.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences go out to Anna Stubbs who recently lost her father.

You are in the thoughts of many KRC members.....

CLASSIFIEDS

OTAKI COVER REPAIR SERVICE

Home based horse cover repair service - available to repair Canvas and Synthetic covers. I am also offering a **local** pick-up and delivery service to cater for people that may work full-time, or have a busy lifestyle -- for a small additional fee for petrol costs.

Waterproofing (for canvas covers at present – I am currently in the process of sourcing proofer for synthetic
For all enquiries or to make an appointment please contact:
Melissa Ellingham
Phone or Text: 021-150-2500
Email: cover.repairs@gmail.com

For sale

Sandra De Ruiter has an assortment of horse gear in her stable for sale. Please contact her for more details.

Melda Gibson will be selling her horse gear. This includes a GP, Flat Seat and Dressage saddle. Please phone Melda Gibson 06 368 7306

Or e-mail Melda@kapiti.co.nz to find out more

I am looking for a very safe, probably retired pony, for our special needs daughter to use at her weekly lessons, lightly trekking and at pony club. Ideally something with a big striding trot (easier to rise to) that is happy to be loved, nurtured and used lightly.

Happily consider a lease or purchase for the right pony. Please call if you think you have something suitable. Sam 021 0249 2098