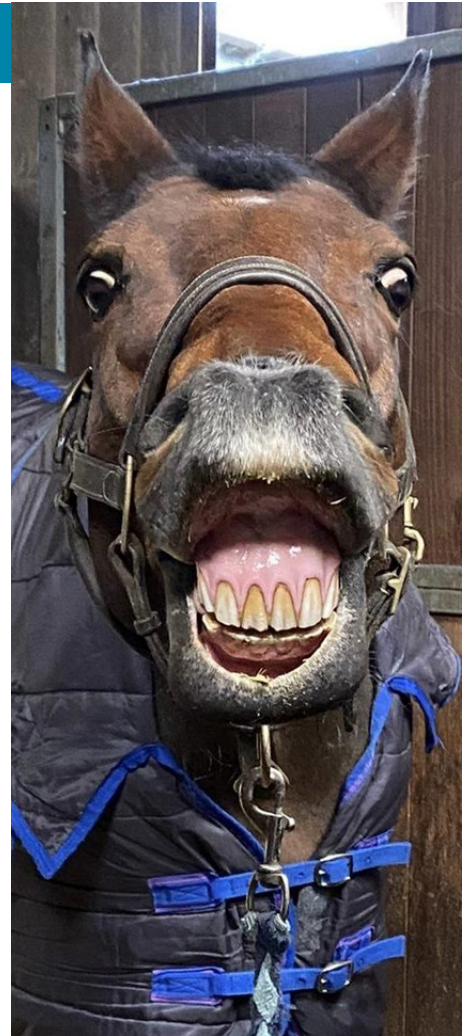


FROM THE HORSES MOUTH Winter Newsletter



WELCOME TO WINTER!!!

We are going to start this newsletter with a giant

THANK YOU!!!!!!

To all of you that have supported us during our first year, there were plenty of highs, a bit of stress but more importantly a lot of positive feedback from the sheets that were handed around at the AGM.

The incoming committee wish to thank the past Committee Members and volunteers for all their hard work behind the scenes. Being the first year it didn't come without trials and tribulations. To be fair there was a lot of blood, stress, sweat and tears (literally) from everyone who paved the way for the start of what we see as a successful growing club.

As per our first newsletter our aim as a club, is to produce a quarterly roundup of past events and rallies and give you all an update on what we have planned for the coming months.

We want our members to stay informed and feel connected to a Riding Club whose aim is to promote a high standard of horsemanship and create a friendly and supportive environment where riders can come together, share knowledge, and support one another.

Winter is also a great time for you as a rider to put some goals in place for the year season ahead and to acquire new skills and ultimately become the best rider and owner you can be for your horse.

We hope you enjoy the content but if there is anything you would like to see featured in our newsletters then drop **a line to:**

waimakridingclub@gmail.com

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DAY AFTER JUMP DAY

While it seems like a life time ago! We need to have a big shout out to all the volunteers and massive giant thanks to Pam Norton who worked like a beaver getting this all organised from course builders, sourcing the jumps, a fair chunk of the donations for prizes to pull together another successful event run by the WRC.

It was enjoyed by everyone who attended with some super results for some of our members too!!!



I call my horses 'divine mirrors'—they reflect back the emotions you put in. If you put in love and respect and kindness and curiosity, the horse will return that.

~ Allan Hamilton



THE MANE EVENTS

Our schedule of events for the start of the new **membership year**

July

6th Mounted Rally – is an unmounted Rally with **Sophie Hargraves**, please register your interest either by responding to FB Event or email the club and we will pop your name down on the list cost \$13.00 per person, limit of 20 people.

31st July Dinner - **guest speaker**

August

10th VDS - Pole Dancing - **venue TBC** cost is \$40 per rider, but the club is subsidising \$20.00 so actual cost to you is \$20. Limited to 12 riders, 4 riders per session 3 Sessions

28th Dinner - Guest speaker Robyn McNairny talking about equine nutrition

September

7th Nooramunga Ranch - details to come

25th Dinner - details to come



A good rider can hear
his horse speak to him.
A great rider can hear
his horse whisper.

~ Unknown

THE MANE EVENTS CONTINUED

WRC DRESSAGE QUEST - SAVE THE DATE 10TH NOVEMBER

WRC in conjunction with Andrea Marsden are working on a teams dressage competition, open to all members and other riding clubs, or anyone who wants to enter a team, in the morning there will be teams dressage, with rosettes and sash for overall winning team and in the afternoon there will be a freestyle competition and be up for grabs the beautiful Marsden trophy for individuals who want to have a go. Don't think that you won't be good enough, it's all about encouraging us to have a go and there will be classes from training (level 0) through to elementary (level 3). One team member riding in each level for the teams. More details to come.

WRC Ribbon Day Saturday 14th December 2024

After such a successful day last year we are again hosting another ribbon day. Classes will be slightly modified from last year, and if anyone would like to offer some prizes/donations and/or sponsorship it would be greatly appreciated.

Don't forget we need volunteers to help make these days successful!

HARRIS TEAMS

WRC entered its first club represented team competition with two teams.

Some of the team members hadn't competed in while, and some had never even ridden a dressage test before.

The team and club spirit was alive and well and both teams successfully had placings over all out of a massive field of 22 teams entered, which is a fantastic result.

The teams were:

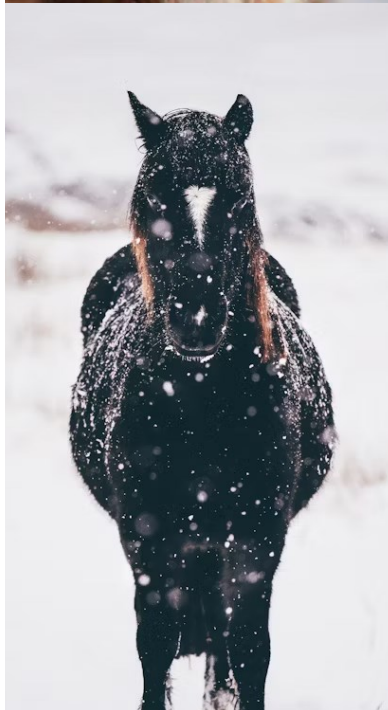
The Yardbirds—5th in Harris Trophy, 5th Overall Pegasus Trophy

Alexia Brownie, Nicolette Buchanan, Jenny Rouse & Amanda Turner

The Iron Maidens - 8th in Harris Trophy, 7th Overall Pegasus Trophy

Leanne Walker, Sam Stickells, Laura Bunning, Becky Speed

Let us know if you would like to maybe have a go this year and be part of the fun day out



SADDLE UP WITH OUR SEASONAL TIPS

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS FOR THE SEASON AHEAD:

We've rounded up a few winter horse care tips.....

Make sure there's access to plenty of forage such as grass, hay or haylage. Horses require around 2 – 2.5% of their daily body weight in forage per day and rely on food as a way of keeping warm when the temperatures plummet.

Monitor their weight and body condition Before heading into the winter months, weigh your horse and take note of their body condition to provide a baseline. Continue to weigh and monitor their condition regularly throughout the winter . Frequent monitoring will enable you to notice issues quickly and make adjustments to keep them healthy.

Always ensure there's fresh water horses tend to drink more in the winter, this is down to increased feeding of dry forage and reduced intake of grass which is 80% water. Always make sure you check buckets and troughs at least twice a day as when the weather freezes you may need to break the ice.

Rug appropriately if necessary , horses feel the cold very differently and most will be comfortable and can easily regulate their body temperature when it's between 5 – 25°C, however, there are a few exceptions to this. Veterans, youngsters, those with clips, thinner horses, and breeds with finer coats such as Thoroughbreds and Arabs typically won't regulate their temperature as easily. Over-rugging is also linked to weight gain as they don't use the excess fat to keep them warm, which results in them storing it instead.

Watch out for winter ailments - Winter brings a lot of wet weather and with it comes wet, muddy conditions which can lead to an increased risk of skin conditions such as mud fever and rain scald. If your horse is turned out, make sure you're giving them a thorough daily once over, brushing off their coat and drying off their legs. Keep an eye out for the signs of mud fever such as crusty scabs which may have discharge, broken skin, matted patches of hair, heat, pain or swelling of their limbs.

You may want to consider laying hardcore, woodchip or paddock mats on high-use areas such as the entry to paddocks, around water troughs and feeding areas as this will prevent them from getting too muddy.

Provide shelter which can be natural, in the form of a treeline or man-made, such as a field shelter. Additionally, some may prefer to be stabled when the weather is very cold or wet, but each horse is an individual so it's important to understand what works best for your four-legged friend.

Adjust your horse's exercise routine, if it's icy, avoid riding on slippery surfaces and on hard frozen arenas as this can cause injury and damage to your horse's legs. Naturally, light conditions are lower in winter so it's more important than ever to make sure you are wearing **hi-vis when hacking**. For older horses in particular, colder temperatures will likely bring about stiffness which may mean they'll need to do less work, or you'll need to spend more time warming up and cooling down properly. Once you've ridden, you'll also need to allow for extra time for the sweat to dry before turning out as they may catch a chill if the weather's especially cold.



HACKNICS

Hacknicks defined as a social ride, in a small group, followed by a picnic or BBQ depending on the season!

Rationale

Our focus when forming The Waimakariri Riding Club (WRC) was about education in the context of horsemanship. However, the social aspect of bringing riders together whilst encouraging good horsemanship skills is key to a fun club and a learning environment.

We set out with the purpose of developing and creating a welcoming community of horse enthusiasts, where knowledge is shared and friendships are formed.

Good riding skills can be learned and built through rides out with the need to control direction, pace, and speed as well as learning to negotiate obstacles and deal with spooking issues.

Hacking out enables riders to develop confidence and horse handling skills in a relaxed environment that will then hopefully encourage those that don't already, to go on and attend our rallies.

Outings will mostly be to venues not used in the normal course of hacking so we will look to provide some new hacking ideas with our members.

How hacknicks will be run

To be run by Gwen and other committee or club members experienced in leading small groups to hack out.

Maximum of 15 riders in three groups of up to 5 to be led by experienced hacking out riders with horses suitable for support calm, relaxing riding.

Riders and horses are to be matched according to abilities and the lead rider for each group will identify the strengths and needs of each member of the ride.

At the start of each ride all riders will introduce themselves to one another and have outlined the rider/horses strengths, worries, issues so that the whole ride is on the same page.

The first hacknick will be on Saturday August 31st meeting at 10am at Baynon Break.

Rides to vary in length from 1 – 2 hours depending on the riders preferences and the ride itself.

Health and Safety

The lead riders will carry a basic first aid kit (horse and human).

All riders will sign a disclaimer for each ride saying they will not hold WRC responsible for anything that happens on or during the ride.

Any horse deemed to be a safety issue before or during the ride will be accompanied back to his/her float so they can load safely and return home.

MEMBER ENCLOSURE

This time we are doing something a little different and introducing you all to your committee!

Gwen Gilmore - Chair

Gwen (aka GG) has been back riding for nearly 10 years. She was bought up in rural South Canterbury and spent most of her youth as her father's rough rider and polo groom, on their sheep and beef farm. She rode the nearest horse to pony club, hunts, Pleasant Point Gymkana and so on. In 2014, whilst doing her busy job teaching Australians how to teach, she decided to get a life and start her riding career again. A couple of spluttering starts on getting the right horse she found Dr James and bought him back to NZ with her when they came back in 2017. She has two super horses, lovely coaches and some fabulous riding friends and plans to ride for quite some time into the future. Cruz and Archie live the life!

"I look forward to building on the fabulous work done during the first year of this club with a lovely new committee! I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at rallies, speaking and dinner events. "



Gwen and Archie



Gwen and Cruz

Deb Woodrow - Riders Rep

Hi Guys....I'm Debbie and I started my riding journey when Gwen move in next door to me in 2000, I was 59 and thought I was to old to start to learning to ride, well Gwen soon put me right on that point. I think she told me to "wash my mouth out" so I started with grooming Dr James (Gwens TB) move on to groundwork and eventually I started to ride him he was very forward and I had a couple of whoopsies on him but it never put me off. Dear James taught me a lot, I loved him and of course I got the bug in my blood.

After telling my poor long suffering Husband "I'll never buy a horse " but somehow I have 2 gorgeous boys, Barney and Cyrus. We like to do trips away, hacking out and some Working Equitation.



Deb and Cyrus



Deb and Barney



Deb and Dr James

MEMBERS ONLY

COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Gwen Gilmore

VICE CHAIR/HEAD COACH

Hess Vertogen

SECRETARY

Nicolette Buchanan

TREASURER

Kat Chubb

SOCIAL MEDIA

Hess Vertogen

RIDER REPRESENTATIVES

Deb Woodrow

Lynn Hodgson

SPONSORSHIP/FUNDRAISING

EVERYONE IN THE CLUB

waimakridingclub@gmail.com