



Shepherds Hill Recreation Park Ayliffes Road St Marys SA since 1970

President/Secretary: Leanne Keeley Treasurer: Kate Merritt

Comments/suggestions/ideas to the **Editor**: Helen Whittle hw@senet.com.au M:0414881606

◆ Fun, relaxed environment, welcoming all ages & abilities

◆ Working Equitation: obstacles, dressage, pole/grid work, training, competitions

◆ Experienced trainers, free help & advice

◆ Yards available

◆ Canteen

◆ 100 acres of natural trails



@marionridingclub



[marionridingclub.
weebly.com](http://marionridingclub.weebly.com)



[marionridingclub@
gmail.com](mailto:marionridingclub@gmail.com)

A Big Start to 2023

AGM & New Committee

Great to see a good turnout at the AGM, and new faces on the committee. Leanne Keeley (President/Secretary), Zena Alliu (Minute Secretary), Kate Merritt (Treasurer), Alex Neailey, Kristie Tilbrook, Heidi Van Meerveld, Anna Jackson (Publicity), Kristie Tilbrook, Amalie Whitehead.

You would have seen the wonderful design talent of Anna in all the new flyers on Facebook making us look very professional.

Regular Events

In January we ran a successful **Pole & Grid clinic**.

In February a **Come'N'Try day**.

In March, an informal **Discussion/Training/fun night at the pub** with Esther Stibbard, many of the group went on to attend a practical **groundwork & ridden day** at the grounds on the weekend that followed.

Esther is an experienced trainer, and we had a wonderful informal discussion on horsemanship, basic horse training and developing a success mindset (over pizza at the pub). We look forward to more of those evenings.

In April we ran an **Obstacle Training Day led by Michele Meijer**.

Recording the History of the Club

The Club has been successful in attaining a **History Grant** thanks to **the City of Mitcham** to enable us to complete our History project recording the history of the club, the memories of many fascinating individuals involved & their successes & the history of the Park in relation to horses.

We have been allowed access to the historical records of the Mounted Police, many of whom were involved in training at the grounds in the 70s/80s, which led to the success of the young members.

on that note, it is with great sadness we record the passing of Detective Superintendent Denis Edmonds, a talented man, great horseman, Board Member of HorseSA, who gave his time instructing young riders on the Club grounds.

This is a huge & ongoing project and once we bring it all together we hope you will all join us to celebrate with another 'Morning Tea', to be advised later in the year.

Adelaide Equestrian Festival 5* International Event 2023

The Club was invited to showcase our sport at the **Adelaide Equestrian Festival** on April 22nd. This was a massive effort for a small club to put on an hour's demonstration of Working Equitation in front of the main grandstand at Victoria Park.

Our job was to explain to the audience what Working Equitation is all about: a World-wide equestrian sport encompassing all the skills expected of a working ridden horse but based on classical dressage, aiming to preserve the unique horsemanship & cultural traditions of each country & discipline (hence riders compete in their individual costumes for their discipline).

This sport is taking off in the eastern states, but Marion Riding Club is the first club to offer training & competition in this sport in SA.

One of our Committee Members, Helen Whittle, designed a 12 obstacle course. The Committee put in many hours practising set up, getting distances right, painting & decorating and on the day we invited a range of riders to try their hand.

First, one of our committee, Zena Alliu, rode the course on her talented 12 year old German Riding pony cross, Naboo Gold De Luxe (Harley), seen below riding through the Stock pen. Zena is our most accomplished Working Equitation rider!



Then we invited **Steph Hann top level Dressage & 4* event rider** on her beautiful warmblood Caperdonich BHI to try out the course. For a 5 year old who has not yet competed, his attitude coping with this atmosphere was amazing. All helped of course by Steph's brilliant riding (she has been around the Adelaide Horse Trials course twice, won at State and National events at dressage & eventing, so is no stranger to riding under pressure.



'Gabe' saluting the judge at the start line, then handling the first obstacle, the Switch Cup, with a calm, square halt.



Obstacle 9:
Gabe making sure he clears the jump



Obstacle 10,
pick up pole,11,
spear bull,
12, deposit pole in next barrel

Here Gabe is getting ready to spear the bull (obstacle 7 in front is the bridge)

Steph was followed by **13 year old Mount Lofty Pony Club member Avah Bowen** on her 11 year old 13hh Riding Pony x Alfie.

Avah was representing Mount Lofty Pony Club, one of the oldest clubs in the Adelaide hills, (more than 50 years). Their club loves trying different horse sports which led them to bring all the members over to Marion Riding club to try out Working Equitation. A talented young lady, Avah has represented Mount Lofty PC at State level in both showjumping and dressage.



Avah & Alfie crossing obstacle 7, the bridge



Successfully negotiating the Stock pen

Avah was followed by **successful Western rider, Liam Marshall**. Liam is the official Resistol Ridesafe Ambassador (cowboy hard hats) for Horseland Adelaide. Liam's focus is team penning and roping. He was riding a brumby he got as a youngster from Kosciuszko National Park. He started "Dixie", now around 7 yr old & a successful Stockman's Challenge and team penning horse with a few wins to her name.



Liam & Dixie over the jump, above, and over the bridge, below.



We were very fortunate to have as our next rider **Olympic Gold medallist Wendy Schaeffer OAM.**

Wendy is the youngest woman to win equestrian gold. She was in the Equestrian Event team 1996 Atlanta Olympics, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia 1997, was Shadow Team Member for the 2012 London Olympics for both Jumping & Eventing. Winner of the Adelaide International Horse Trials in 2002 and 2010; the first rider to have won the title twice. Riding Sun Quest, 10yo a 3* event horse he won CCI3* L at Wandin in 2021 and was SA Event Horse of the Year in 2021.

We were honoured to have her accept the challenge & try her hand at Working Equitation.



Handling the gate (top) and the rein back corridor (below)



Our final rider was Clancy Skene. An enthusiastic six year old young horseman riding Oscar, a 24 year old 9 hand Shetland.

Clancy started with led classes as a 2.5 year old, now stars on Facebook after riding at Megan Jones Derby Days. They have tried their hand at everything from hacking, dressage, show jumping, mounted games & eventing. Last year they added working equitation & loved it.

Competing at his 1st One Day Event at Kadina last year in grade six, he was the youngest rider there & he won, leading right from the dressage all the way through a clear cross country run & capping it off with a clear show jumping round, leaving the arena with a 1 handed cantering wave. He is certainly a young showman, and the crowd loved him.

Clancy's motto is "it's not about winning; it's just about having fun!" He epitomised that as the crowd cheered him on.



Clancy & Oscar at the Bell Corridor left,

and the Slalom, below.

On the next page, Clancy cheered on by the crowd to the jump





We set out to prove that this sport is for all riders, all types of horses, all disciplines, all ages & abilities. It combines all the skills required to be a good horseman and well trained horse, which is why it is often called: “the fun way to train seriously”.

If the reception at Adelaide is any indication, it this will bring more people into the sport and more support for our club (maybe we will raise enough money to fix that arena!)



A small part of the wonderful team that did a mighty effort (Leanne, Helen, Heidi, Cheryl). We got the erection of the course down from 1 ½ hours to 30 minutes (after a lot of practice!)



Something we never expected to see – the Club’s name on the big screen at Adelaide!

We have a competition coming up May 21st at the grounds – why not come along & have a look?



2023 - Our aims:

- To build our membership
- To encourage more people to try Working Equitation
- To raise *significant* funds to resurface the existing (currently unusable) dressage arena – this will enable us to get better use of our oval and to have more riders on the grounds.

How can you help?

- Be part of our Club - come along to our days, bake a cake, sit at the desk, help put out equipment, make a donation.
Spread the word – encourage your friends to support the club & come along!

Become a **Supporter Member** if you don't ride (& encourage your friends to)

SUPPORTER MEMBERSHIP

A great way to be part of the Club if you don't want to ride
Your contribution helps us provide better facilities

\$20 one-off payment increases our membership (that helps us get grants)
keeps you up to date

Come along to our days - consider volunteering

CLUB PATRON: Ms Di Bartlett

Di has had a lifetime with horses, she has judged dressage, hacks, breeds, turnout, hunters, & harness. She was involved with Pony Club, RDA & EA, bred Warmbloods & used to prepare the Police Greys for parade. Known for her desire to help young riders, with a keen interest in improving horsemanship, Di felt that Working Equitation fitted with her philosophy of teaching riders to have more educated control of their horses, & as such has been a major contributor to the Club, for which we are extremely grateful.

We welcome new members. Those who may just like to give it a try can choose Day Membership. Inexperienced riders and young horses are given utmost consideration.

We welcome your feedback & comments



Member of Horse SA

<https://www.horsesa.asn.au/>

Affiliated with:

Equestrian SA

<https://www.sa.equestrian.org.au/>

& Aust Nat Working Equitation Ltd

<https://anwe.org.au/>



Keep up to date with what's happening: Facebook: www.facebook.com/marionridingclub
Email: marionridingclub@gmail.com Website: <https://marionridingclub.weebly.com/>



WE ARE AN ACCREDITED
GOOD SPORTS CLUB.

