



Shepherds Hill Recreation Park Ayliffes Road St Marys SA

President/Secretary: Leanne Keeley Treasurer: Kate Merritt

Comments/suggestions/ideas to the Editor: Helen Whittle [hw@senet.com.au](mailto: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

FB:  
[@marionridingclub](https://www.facebook.com/marionridingclub)

Web:  
[marionridingclub.weebly.com](https://www.marionridingclub.weebly.com)

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

## A brief snapshot of 2023

**Our Regular Events** included a **Pole & Grid clinic** in January, September and another in November. In February, we held a **Come'N'Try day**. Two fun informal **Discussion/Training nights at the pub** led by Esther Cruckshank, (March & July), and **Training Day** with Esther.

An **Obstacle Training Day** led by **Michele Meijer** in April – a chance to ride the same course we showcased at the **Adelaide Equestrian Festival 5\* International Event 2023** in front of the main grandstand at Victoria Park in May. In August we ran a 3-phase competition.

In winter we ran an **online dressage/obstacle competition** – riders sent in their videos – such a great way to get training tips from judges with a personalised critique. Our **October training day** spaces filled quickly, and in November we ran our best ever **3 phase Working Eq competition**.

We brought in different judges: Ease of Handling - Sandra Richards, Michele Meijer and for Dressage: Gerry Wellington, Jo Taylor and Anna Jackson.

We sadly lost our patron Diana Bice Bartlett in June, after a long illness. With the help of an Office for Rec & Sport grant, (and with generous help from Horseland Adelaide) we purchased new arena letters and surrounds. We kept our prices down. We welcomed many new faces.

Our membership grew each event, and we have 2 very successful juniors, Clancy and Ella. We have a great committee, with everyone doing a job (but are always on the lookout for more people 😊).

We promote **Working Equitation**: a world-wide equestrian sport encompassing all the skills expected of a working ridden horse but based on classical dressage, aiming to preserve the cultural traditions of each country & discipline (hence riders compete in their specific dress and gear 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.

A Darwin club is showing interest, as is a group in the southeast and also north of Adelaide, so hopefully in 2024 we may have more competition.

We have one more Pole clinic to go (Nov 25<sup>th</sup>) and a big end of year celebration Dec 10<sup>th</sup> (don't miss it – but please RSVP for catering). All of this promoted on Facebook by the wonderful design talent of Anna Jackson making us look very professional. Thank you Anna.



## End of year awards

Congratulations to our winners! They will be announced at the presentations on Dec 10<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am Morning tea – we can tell you **Zena Alliu and Naboo Gold De Luxe** won **Marion Riding Club Horse & Rider of the Year**

**Who will get our Most Improved Combination 2023?**  
Make sure you are there – if you rode, it could be you!



*Photo shows our star rider and committee member, Zena Alliu riding her talented 12 year old German Riding Pony cross, Naboo Gold De Luxe (aka Harley) through an Ease of Handling course.*

## Recording the History of the Club

The work is now complete, and the book will be launched and available at the Dec 10<sup>th</sup> Morning Tea, ! **If you have ever ridden at the Club, you are probably mentioned in it!** The launch will take place after the Annual Award presentations, with catering thanks to the generosity of City of Mitcham.

This is a record not only of the history of the club, the memories of many fascinating & talented individuals involved & their successes, but also the history of the Park in relation to horses.

## Marion Riding Club Inc: Newsletter Nov 2023

It tells of the gender barriers that were broken along the way; the relationship to the Mounted Police and their input (many of whom were involved in training at the grounds in the 70s/80s, which contributed to the considerable success of the young members).

We are inviting all our past members to attend – many have already confirmed, so expect to catch up with people you have not seen in years! We are also fortunate in having Catherine Hutchesson, MP, Member for Waite, Nadia Clancy, MP, Member for Elder and Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, Mayor, City of Mitcham agreeing to attend. It should be a great morning. Please RSVP to help us with catering (either [hw@senet.com.au](mailto:hw@senet.com.au) or text 0414881606).

The story of one member, Heidi Pincombe, epitomises the nature of this club:

Heidi started at the club as a young child, bareback on her pony. She watched the police exercising their splendid horses in the park; she, like the other kids, was fortunate enough to get instruction from these capable and respected horsemen. She had a dream that she would be a mounted police officer one day. Not possible, they said, women are not allowed.

One day, years later, she turned up for mounted duty alongside one of those very instructors.

Later her children rode in the park alongside mum at competitions.

The recurring theme of this story is about families, friendships, and people helping one another. It spans generations; it is about amazing achievements, made possible by the wonderful grounds that is Shepherds Hill Recreation Park.

Adele Anderson:  
*"It is so, so interesting; I think it's wonderful that this history is being collated!"*


Kerry Kirchner:  
*"The Marion members...back in the days, they were very good!"*

Pam Garden:  
*"It was the grounds that made us so good. We were the envy of all other clubs."*

**The History of Marion Riding Club**

# The History of Marion Riding Club


*A brief glimpse into the rich history of the Marion Riding Club, its impressive contribution to today's national equestrian community, and the connection to Shepherds Hill Recreation Park*



*"Creek Gully, Shepherds Hill" Oil by Des Bettany*

COMPILED BY HELEN WHITTLE

COMPILED BY HELEN WHITTLE



ISBN 978-0-4658708-4-2  
9 780643 870862

The book is available for purchase: \$22 members \$25 non members

Contact Helen [hw@senet.com.au](mailto:hw@senet.com.au) or M: 0414881606

It will be available at the Morning Tea, but if you can't make the event, either arrange pickup or we can post for \$6, please note this is a fund raiser for the club - all proceeds go towards upgrading the dressage arena!

Bank Details: Marion Riding Club BSB 805-050 Account No. 2343196 Reference your name & 'Book'



Thank you to the City of Mitcham for support in producing this document.

*So good to see what diverse opportunities we have on offer in our local area – keeping history alive, giving people a chance to connect with horses in a wonderful environment."*

**Dr Heather Holmes-Ross, Mayor, The City of Mitcham**



Above: The winners & gridders from the well-attended Nov 5<sup>th</sup> 3 phase competition day. Riders are getting more confident to try a competition now. Especially great to see two juniors, Ella and Clancy.

Right: Our 2 junior winners (with Ease Of Handling judge Helen Whittle)



# Invitation

Marion Riding Club invites you to the Book Launch of:

## ‘The History of Marion Riding Club’



Join us for morning tea to celebrate the launch: discover the rich history of the club, its impressive contribution to today's national equestrian community and the connection to Shepherds Hill Recreation Park

9:30am

ANNUAL CLUB AWARD PRESENTATIONS

10:30am

BOOK LAUNCH & MORNING TEA

Location

CLUB GROUNDS, SHEPHERDS HILL RECREATION PARK, AYLIFFES RD ST MARYS

RSVP  
December  
5th

Facebook message: [www.facebook.com/marionridingclub](https://www.facebook.com/marionridingclub)  
Email: [hw@senet.com.au](mailto:hw@senet.com.au) or text Helen : 0414 881 606

Copies available for purchase

### How many clubs are fortunate enough to be placed inside a Recreation Park?

Why not reward your horse after a training day or competition with a ride in the Park (you will usually find someone else happy to ride out with you)?

Membership benefits include being able to hire a key to the park and enjoy riding the 100 acres of beautiful trails any time. You can choose to hire a key to the oval too, if you would like to school your horse as well.

Have you considered getting a group together & having a private Working Equitation Training Session on the grounds? (Ask for details).



### 2024 - Our aims:

- To build our membership, particularly juniors
- 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, volunteer, bake a cake, sit at the desk, help put out equipment, make a donation. Buy a book!
- Spread the word – encourage your friends to support the club & come along!
- Join the Club (& encourage your friends to) – we have discounted non-rider membership too.

**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**

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## Marion Riding Club Inc

### 2024 Event Calendar 2nd Sunday of Each Month

Jan 14	Training Day	Obstacle Play, Flat Lesson, Obstacle Lesson, High Point
Feb 11	Come'N Try	Obstacle Play 10am-12pm Full Solo Course 12.30pm - 1.30pm
Mar 10	Training Day	Obstacle Play, Flat Lesson, Obstacle Lesson, High Point
Apr 14	Dressage Day	EA Prep to Elementary & Higher on Request, High Point
May 12	WEq Competition	Three Phase Levels 1-8, High Point
Jun 09	Dressage Day	EA Prep to Elementary & Higher on Request, High Point
Jul	Special Event	Date and Details to be Announced!
Aug 11	WEq Competition	Three Phase Levels 1-8, High Point
Sep 08	Training Day	Obstacle Play, Flat Lesson, Obstacle Lesson, High Point
Oct 15	Dressage Day	EA Prep to Elementary & Higher on Request, High Point
Nov 10	WEq Competition	Three Phase Levels 1-8, High Point
Dec 15	Christmas Break Up!	High Point Awards & Trail Ride

*Look out for our Pub Nights throughout the year!*

<b>Training Day</b> \$30 Obstacles Lesson* 20 Min \$40 Flat Lesson* 30 Min \$10 Obstacles* Play	<b>WEq Competition</b> \$55 Members \$75 Non-Members*	<b>Dressage Day</b> \$25 Members Each Test \$35 Non-Members* Each Test	<b>High Point</b> High Point Horse & Rider of the Year Competition for Members
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\*A \$20 Day Membership applies to Non-Members for each competition/training day or riding activity

Note: these dates are subject to change, check Facebook or website for updates.

Member of Horse SA <https://www.horsesa.asn.au/>

Affiliated with Equestrian SA  
<https://www.sa.equestrian.org.au/>



**WE ARE AN ACCREDITED  
GOOD SPORTS CLUB.**

