

## **2020 – 2021 President Report**

The past year has been a very trying time for its members with the uncertainty of Covid and lockdowns, during the first part of the year the Executive spent many hours working through various Government Departments and Sports Victoria trying to get our sport up and running again due to the sport being classified as a contact sport. During this process the Branch applied for a grant, Community Sport Survival Package this was paid in two instalments for a total \$1750.00.

Come January with the easing of restrictions, it was all steam ahead with clubs trying to organizing competitions and club activities. Then with the circuit breaker lockdown in February it looked like the upcoming events may needed to postponed or cancelled, luckily this was only a short lockdown and our planed events could continue.

We were able still able to have three Combined Driving Events, seven Graded Dressage Qualifiers, and four Indoor/Outdoor competitions. And clubs were able to hold various club activities for their members, whether it was coaching or please drives.

I would like to thank the Kirsty Blake and the Young Drivers Committee on the successful camp held for our junior members. I'm sure all who attended had a great time and gained valuable knowledge. I know of one driver when they got home had something to eat and wanted to put the pony back in and go for more driving.

To the volunteers of our sport a big thank you, there are many who volunteer that are not members of the society but they give up their time for you the members can compete and enjoy your sport.

I wish the new incoming Executive all the best for the next 12 months.

Finally, I would like thank the Executive, and the Discipline Convenors and Sub-Committee's for the work and support they have given to the sport of carriage driving in the last 12 months.

Safe Driving

Peter Harkness

Victorian State President

## **2020 – 2021 CDE Report**

Since the last AGM the panel has continued to review CDE programs prior to ratification. We have also been involved in discussions about many other CDE issues, pneumatic tyres for VSE's, the potential use of GoPro's as video evidence, easing of membership requirements for CDE Event Officials, Level 4/Three Phase comparisons/review, etc.

In January/February two Ground Jury/POJ training sessions were held via Zoom. Several Victorian officials were able to complete their training and others were able to commence their accreditation process.

A series of four CDE Event Officials clinics have been and are being held over the months of June, July, August and September. These have been delivered via Zoom and we have seen a good uptake of this opportunity by Victorian members. Notice of these sessions has been sent to all Club Secretaries for distribution to their members and also posted on the ACDS Vic Branch webpage.

Whilst face to face Event Officials training sessions will still be offered in the future (when Covid restrictions are not ruling our lives), these Zoom sessions have enabled members to participate without having to travel. The sessions have also enabled members from all over Australia to participate and contribute giving an opportunity for a wider view on discussion points. A big thank you to Peter Lee and Peter Harkness for conducting these sessions.

Lorraine Cairns

Victorian CDE Convenor

## **2020 - 2021 Driven Dressage Report**

Dressage qualifiers and Covid. Whilst some qualifiers were able to proceed there has been a number of lockdowns, due to Covid and a cap on entries has stopped some from attending qualifying events.

State Championships and Qualifying. Many drivers have written to request that those who had qualified for the cancelled 2020 championships be accepted into 2021 championships, and those seeking to qualify for 2021, without qualifying for 2020, be accepted with attendance at one qualifier. I understand that this has been agreed to by other state panels and we are waiting for the green light from Federal Council over this for the upcoming Victorian Driven Dressage Championships, for 2021.

Carriage Horse Driving Trials Club has a team working on the state Driven Dressage Championship and we look forward to this.

Grading Points for Graded Dressage. Many competitors have found that the dressage points seem too few and ponies and horses have been gaining too many points at their level. As a result, they have not had sufficient time to consolidate the intended focus of that grading level before they are upgraded and have to attempt tests in the next level that they are not ready for. This was raised at Federal level, but not all states agreed with this change. They say that due to lack of qualifiers in their state/s, it takes too long to gain 10 points and upgrade to the next level. Drivers can of course put themselves up voluntarily if this is an issue. Some drivers have also queried the scoring system and placings at qualifying events. Perhaps this is something that may need our attention in the future?

President of Ground Jury and Ground Jury Zoom training and exams. We have offered Zoom meetings to refresh or go through the training for Ground Jury. Exams were sent out and healthy discussion of scenarios was had as well. I believe all who attended gained some knowledge and competency during this training.

The lack of judges and the process of becoming a judge.

I have had a hand full of enquiries from interested parties seeking to become judges. Training package from the Federal website have been sent out and those potential candidates have been asked to start getting their evidence together, listing it as required. Perhaps a zoom meeting may solve this the package "How I become a dressage judge". Many are unclear and seem a little reticent to approach clubs to pencil, or uncertain of the evidence list. In addition, I suggest that the steps towards shadow judging to be clearer and more easily understood. Of course, this takes us full circle and back to the question of assessors in our state.

Our Panel this year has been great. We had little to talk about during some of the lockdowns but now there is plenty. I would like to thank Cheryl for her contribution to the state panel as she won't be standing on the new dressage panel and will focus on Federal issues and the National Training Panel. Thanks also to Mandy Lawrence, Debra Fuller, Margie Morgan and Tracey Gorick for their contributions this year and in the future.

Gwenifer Hack

Victorian Dressage State Convenor

## **2020 - 2021 Show Driving Report**

It's been a quieter year for show driving due to covid. A few agriculture shows have run and got support when they were run.

I'm looking forward to events being run in the next year with Pyrenees running the championships in November. Thank you.

Zander McGuire

Show Driving Convenor

## **2020 - 2021 Indoor / Outdoor Report**

The 2021 Season is underway in Victoria, a few stutters but several very successful events have been held, other postponed and some cancelled, we hope for more events to go ahead before the final.

The Indoor sub-committee completed the draft for the updated rule book and submitted the Junior Driver age suggestions to Federal Council, the suggested changes were put to a motion and passed as they were submitted.

After the cancellation of the 2020 Season the Oaklands Club was given first refusal to host the Victoria final, the hope was to hold the final indoors at Broadhanger Indoor Equestrian Centre at Kalkallo but with the current uncertainties it has been moved to the Greenvale Outdoor venue on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September due to venue availability.

Keep driving everyone, take your opportunities to drive whenever you can and let's look forward to the final and next year's season.

Bernadette Lewis

Victorian Indoor/Outdoor Convenor

## **2020 - 2021 Young Drivers Report**

This year has flown as my first time holding a conveyor position for VB.

However I am very happy to have achieved the first Colts & Fillies Junior & Young Driver camp which was hosted at Leighdale. Junior camps have been run many years ago but here's hoping this can be an annual reoccurrence going forward.

Applying for the ACDS junior bursary put the topic of funding for juniors on the table and that's exactly what was needed to secure \$1,000 from Federal and with the suggestion and backing from other VB delegates our Vic branch also chipped in to match the boost that Fed had promised. So with funds available to make an idea a reality I went about making this camp happen.

On April 16, 17 & 18th the first Colts & Fillies camp took place at Leighdale with the support also of many GDCD members. 12 kids were registered with 8 drivers amongst them, catering for around 30 each day including the parents, helpers, special presenters, instructors etc. A full report of the weekend's activities can be read in the ACDS Journal that followed, a wonderful write up was also published in the weeks following Weekly Times.

I must express a MASSIVE THANKS to Rodney Lane & Rachel Haslau for their super coaching and support over the weekend. They both had the right vibe for the camp and were brilliant ACDS advocates for the sport, I feel this needed to be well expressed up the chain.....

I have shared May of my resources used with the ACDS & VB in the hope it might be of use to other states or clubs should they wish to follow a similar path.

If re-elected, I look forward to continuing to grow and develop Victoria's Junior and Young Drivers.

Kirsty Blake

Victorian Young Driver Convenor

## **2020 – 2021 Pleasure and Endurance Report**

A busy couple of months mainly with regard to the ACDS 50th anniversary celebrations to be held next Easter at Longwood. Meeting with the Strathbogie Shire traffic management to obtain permits etc. for the event in particular driving out on minor roads around Longwood. I have submitted maps of proposed routes for approval and obtained permission from landholders to traverse some farmland for both pleasure drives and the mini enduro. I attended a meeting with Strathbogie Shire special event representatives at the Longwood reserve with the 50th anniversary event director Jenny Martin and received extremely positive feedback from the Shire for the proposed event together with sponsorship commitments from them and other major and minor sponsors already received. I have submitted an application for sponsorship to R.M. Williams for possible promotional opportunity at the event for them, together with financial support for the event at this special ACDS occasion.

Together with Zander McGuire and Nicole Linic we provided for the ACDS webinar a 1 hour power point presentation about the Ruffy Mini Enduro and Oztrec driving requirements.

Unfortunately the proposed Great Western Pleasure Drive had to be cancelled due to Covid concerns.

The proposed Hunter Valley NSW Enduro which a few of us Victorians have entered has also been cancelled.

Hoping drivers can find time amid this lousy weather to still enjoy some driving.

David Cockroft

Victorian P&E Convenor

## **2020 – 2021 Publicity Report**

Club notes have been gathered from clubs and sent for publication. Many queries to the Branch are made through private message on the ACDS Vic Branch page and these have also been followed up.

The website calendar is probably the most often updated page on the website and this was even more evident this last year as events went up and then had to be postponed due to lockdowns and then put back up again when “the coast was clear”. It has been great to now be able to add to the Results page rather than adding Postponed or Cancelled to the Calendar.

I have been developing a new website (with the help of a Computer Programmer friend) which will be web based rather than the present situation. The old website is program based, which means you must have a computer to run that particular program. The program is old and outdated and is not user friendly to mobile phones. The program is no longer supported by Microsoft and indeed will only run on very old PC's. The new website I have been developing should have a calendar which looks very similar to the current calendar. This has been the stumbling block up until now, but this is also what members have said they prefer. Hopefully, this new website will do the job.

Facebook Page

Janice Gorick does a great job of sharing items of interest to this page. As admins are the only ones allowed to share to the page the Branch needs to make a decision about the future of this page. Do we need to close this page and start a new one which would allow anyone to share anything. I have put this forward as an agenda item for the next Delegates meeting.

Lorraine Cairns

Victorian Publicity Officer