



About Oaklands

Oakland's is affiliated with the Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS) and Victorian Branch of the ACDS. Oakland's were one of the founding clubs associated with the ACDS. Oakland's has sponsored the Harness Classes at the Whittlesea Agricultural Show for many years previously having had a number of members residing in the Whittlesea Shire and surrounding regions. Club members are keen competitors and have showcased the sport at Equitana, Royal Melbourne Show, junior school holiday camps and numerous Agricultural shows and events. Oakland's home grounds are located in Section Road Greenvale, at the Greenvale Equestrian Reserve, at the rear of Oaklands Junction, near the Melbourne Airport. The grounds are also home to Avenel & Bulla Adult Riders & Tullamarine Pony Club. The grounds have a Pavilion, permanent cross country & marathon obstacles, Club rooms, and storage facilities for equipment required for hosting events such as ACDS/FEI/EA.

For more information, contact:

Cheryl Dowling, Oakland's Secretary on 0414 772806 or catara23@froggy.com.au Facebook: Oaklands Horse & or on the ACDS website www.acds.org.au or on the Victorian Branch website of the ACDS on australiancarriagedrivingsocietyvictorianbranch.com/

Oakland's Horse & Carriage Driving Club (Inc)



What is Carriage Driving?

Carriage driving takes on many forms from **Show Driving** to **Combined Driving Events**, to **Dressage Competitions**, to **Pleasure Driving**, to **Indoor winter competitions including Fault or Speed Cones**.

Most people would have seen the harness events at their local show. **Show Driving** is where the beautifully turned out horses wearing their meticulously cleaned harness pull immaculate carriages. Many are original carriages painstakingly restored. These carriages, pulled by stately Clydesdales, Percherons or Friesians, or derivatives with bells jangling often generate the most interest, especially amongst the old timers.

Combined Driving Events are held around the world and throughout Australia. They involve multiple tests for horses and drivers; covering dressage, cones and a marathon and are the equivalent of the saddle horse three-day event which encompasses Dressage, Show jumping and Cross country.

Dressage Competitions are held where the horse, carriage and driver are presented with elegance from plaiting of manes, polishing of harness and vehicles and well dressed and groomed drivers. Competitors drive a pre-designated test and are marked for accuracy, horse movement and the skill of the driver.

Pleasure Driving can either be an organised drive through a National Park with the picnic basket for lunch to an informal gathering of people for a drive around a property. It can be a great way to see the countryside.

Fault or Speed Cone driving can be a stand-alone competition or an addition to another activity. Cone driving is through a designated course through "witches hats numbered 1 to 20". The cones are set a certain distance apart and have balls on top. A ball knocked off will incur a penalty. Cones courses are designed to test the driver's skill and the flexibility and speed of the horse.

A Family Sport

All members of the family can be involved. Various breeds ranging from Shetlands, Welsh to Friesians, Fjords, Gelderlanders using various carriages (vehicles) are used in carriage driving. Horses and ponies ranging from VSE's (under 9hh/90cm) to large horses and are driven in Single and Multiple combinations and disciplines. Ponies over 12hh (124cms) are required to have a groom and it is not uncommon to have a team of husband and wife or son and daughter. For those that compete in CDEs, it means weekends away with the ponies/horses, sleeping in the tent or float, keeping company with likeminded people and enjoying good times.

Carriage Driving – Truly a Sport for all the family!!!

