



1990 until now – THREE PLUS DECADES & STILL GOING STRONG.....

Currently

The Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club (EVPHC) has evolved since its inception back in the nineties. After a lot of investigation and liaison with the Wellington Shire Council and the Maffra Recreation Reserve Committee by Cheryl Dowling, over a decade ago, the Club proudly acquired its own 'home grounds', including dedicated Club Rooms, at the Recreational Reserve in Maffra Victoria.

The grounds allow us to have access to the complete Rec Reserve, including the main pavilion, the footy grounds, another two enclosed grassed areas, cattle pavilion, horse washes, the Rec Reserve's sound system and the use of lights for night events, along with storage facilities for the various club-owned equipment.

Our members range in age from 6 years to 70+ and they use a variety of horse drawn vehicles, pulled by differing types of equines; from donkeys to miniatures, Welsh ponies, Cobs, Fjords, Clydesdales, Shetlands or crossbreeds.

The EVPHC is affiliated with the Australian Carriage Driving Society (ACDS) – formally the Australian Driving Society (ADS) and with the quality of our grounds, we have the capability to conduct the various following activities:

Coaching Clinics: utilising ACDS accredited coaches, specialising in driving techniques and the safety aspects of hitching up and driving.

Showdriving: by either conducting our own specialised Showdriving events (or coaching clinics) or assisting the Maffra Agricultural Society in conducting Showdriving at the annual Show.

The Club has a special award that encourages drivers to attend local shows to keep the Showdriving events on the Show calendars.

Driven Dressage: by definition, the object of dressage is the harmonious development of physique and the ability of the horse through progressive training. EVPHC endeavours to conduct one State Qualifier every year, providing people the opportunity to compete in State and National Events

Cones: are designed to test the fitness, obedience and subtleness of our equines. We regularly have cones events at EVPHC and sometimes combine this activity with other disciplines (driving through obstacles) to increase the challenge during our rally days.

Obstacles: where horse/s and carriage are timed whilst driving through an obstacle in the correct lettered sequence.

Pleasure/
Endurance Drive: We regularly conduct pleasure/endurance drives. These can be a drive down a country lane, rail trails, a picnic or campfire shared with like-minded company held on one day or a full weekend.



Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club



EVPHC conducts an endurance drive every two years (normally the Australia Day Weekend) to raise money for the Prostate Cancer Foundation.

Check us out on our Facebook Page.

FORMATION

May 1990

The idea to form a Harness Club in East Gippsland was hatched by **Christene Turnbull** (now a current Club Life Member) and **Jacqui Whiting** whilst returning from a Welsh One Day Event (ridden) at Officer, where Christene had been competing with her Stallion, Rosnaree Cascade. On returning home and mentioning the idea to respective husbands, both ladies were simply told to "Get on with it then"; so, they did. Individuals, like **Brian Blakeman**, who was giving rides in his home-built Wagonette in Lakes Entrance, at schools, Pony Clubs and other horse affairs, were approached. **Rebecca O'Brein** and **Marion Dawson** both involved with Pony Club were very enthusiastic also.

June 1990

Christene spoke to **Rob Ashworth**, who had recently moved to Paynesville to take up a position with the Port of Melbourne Authority as Shipwright. Rob and his wife, **Anita** had been competitive members of the Mornington club for several years with Anita being the immediate past Secretary of the Victoria Branch of the then Australian Driving Society (ADS). Much help and advice were given by both.

July 1990

An advertisement was placed in the Bairnsdale Advertiser, asking for expressions of interest regarding the formation of a Harness Club in the area. After several replies from other enthusiasts, including **Chris Woolan** (now a current Club Life Member) ringing as soon as he got home from work the day the advertisement appeared. An inaugural meeting was called to be held on the **8th August 1990** at the Bruthen Hall – hire fee of \$2.00 for the evening, power supplied, bring your own kettle. Later that year the meeting rooms were carpeted and the fee went up to \$3.00.

Rob Ashworth was asked to come along and outline the operations of the Australian Driving Society (ADS) and the advantages of becoming affiliated with a parent body.

Those in attendance at the first meeting were:

Rob and Anita Ashworth – Paynesville;
Christene Turnbull – Lakes Entrance;
Rebecca O'Brien and Colin Campbell – Lakes Entrance;
Chris Woolan – Bairnsdale;
Jane Mckessy – Bairnsdale;
Jack Woolan – Heyfield;
Jean Rodwell and Jacqui Whiting – Swan Reach/Tambo;
Dave and Glenys Doody – Nicholson
Marion Dawson – Nicholson; and
Peter Richards – Swifts Creek

Apologies were received from twelve other interested persons.



Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club



After a very helpful talk from Rob Ashworth, a motion was put forward that a harness club be formed in East Gippsland. This was passed unanimously. Office bearers were duly elected and the Club formed.

Office Bearers

President: Rob Ashworth
Secretary: Christene Turnbull
Treasurer: Jane McKessy
Committee: Chris Woolan
Peter Richards
Jacqui Whiting
Dave Doody

A discussion regarding the name of the new club took place and the name '**The East Gippsland Pleasure Harness Club**' was chosen. The word 'Pleasure' was incorporated in the name to make a distinction between Harness Racing and the recreational type driving our members would be participating in.

Following the meeting, many phone calls were made to both present and past presidents and secretaries of ADS clubs; to help with the formation of the Constitution. Those most helpful were **Neil Gilmore** who had been an inaugural member of the Victorian Branch of the ADS and his wife, **Janet**, who was at that time the ADS Federal Secretary. **Angela Hennel**, the then State Secretary was most helpful with copies of and information regarding the Constitution.

September 1990

A meeting was convened and discussion focused on the finalisation of the Constitution and business concerning incorporations.

J. Whiting was elected Vice President and **E. Lloyd** was elected Public Officer.

October 1990

During a meeting at the Bruthen Hall, it was decided to hold our first rally with horses at the Bairnsdale Pony Club grounds on the 24th November.

November 1990

At a meeting, E. Lloyd informed members that \$80.00 still remained in the bank account of a previous Harness Club in Bairnsdale and this was offered to the new club. The donation was gratefully received.

24 November 1990 – Special Meeting at Bairnsdale Rally

Following objections regarding our proposed name, 'The East Gippsland Pleasure Harness Club' (the word 'Gippsland' appeared in another Club's name and they felt that our proposed club name may confuse people); a special meeting was held and a new name was selected for the Club. A majority of members voting for:

Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club Inc.



Eastern Vic. Pleasure Harness Club

