



# Halt & Salute



June/July 2011

<http://www.mvdhc.com>

ABN 24 909 968 366

MANNING VALLEY DRESSAGE &  
HACKING CLUB



**President :** Coralie Burnett, 65536208  
**Treasurer:** Regina Farr, 65541780  
34 Glacier Lane, NABIAC, 2312  
**Vice President:** Valerie Brodin, 65577074  
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**Secretary:** Carol Meany, 65574095  
88 Irwins road, Koorainghat, 2430

**Membership Fees:** Jan – Dec; Once only Joining Fee -\$5.  
Annual – Adult- \$25  
Family-\$35  
Junior 16 and Under - \$15



## Bits 'N' Pieces

- Update regarding the changes to our calendar after the flooding recently devastated our arenas at Taree showground. Browns creek, which runs along behind the covered stalls at the back of the grounds came up and covered the showground in about a metre of water, completely submerging the arenas as well as entering our office and damaging some of our assets in there. Many of our logs washed away and the surfaces and subsoil structures were severely damaged. The cover we had made for our pipe arena trailer saved the day, it was also completely under water and the pipes and cones would have floated away without the cover to hold them on!
- We have decided that major repair work will need to be conducted before we can host an event and therefore we have cancelled our July t-shirt comp, made our championships dates a single day (Saturday 20th) Official/Associate comp with limited entry numbers due to arena re-construction works and the championships will now be held on the December date, Saturday 3rd and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December. The October Cancer Fundraiser will proceed as planned. Helen Zimic has received speedy approval of the date changes and the photos of the flooded grounds have even made it onto the DNSW website!
- This reshuffle will still all depend on whether the finance and grant applications we are making come to fruition. The smaller days may still be run in pipe arenas with a reduced warm up area but the championships definitely need those sand arenas in action.

- We will do our best! This year has certainly been a natural disaster for the club!
- Photos of the showground taken by Valerie the day after the peak (the water has somewhat receded) show an amazingly unexpected sight and the water level is a blowout in the one of the covered stalls, nearly to the roofline! Check them out on our website in the photo gallery (just a couple below). We also made the front page of Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> June Manning River Times with a great story on the flood damage; hope some of you saw it! (great job Valerie)
- The website is currently undergoing a revamp, looking good Karen!
- The presentation night went well; results will be on the website shortly. A big congrats to all the winners!
- Gloucester Off/Ass comp was washed out by the flooding as well, another on the growing list!
- **AGM!!** This will be held on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2011, 7.00pm at Taree Leagues Sports Club. All positions will be declared vacant and the current committee is hoping to see lots of members along. Your club will be looking for people to take over the positions of Secretary and Treasurer as the current holders of these have indicated they cannot stand for election again this year. Come on members, your club needs you! These two very important positions **MUST** be filled for the club to continue! See you all there!



**Calendar of events** If you know of an event that could be added to this please let Linda Pike know.

Club meetings held at Taree Leagues Sports Club, 7.00pm in the dining room, third Wed of each month  
**ALL WELCOME!**

Gap months may be filled with lesson or social days, watch the calendar for updates.



Official/associate competitions



T-Shirt/Training competitions

<b>July</b> 	24 <sup>th</sup> , T-shirt Comp <b>CANCELLED</b> Taree Showground Enq : TBA
<b>August</b> 	20th, Limited entry Off/Ass dressage comp Taree Showground Enq : Valerie , 65577074
<b>September</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> Camden Haven Show Society Dressage and Hacking weekend ENQ: Jill Ramsay, (AH) 65594743
<b>October</b> 	23 <sup>rd</sup> , T-shirt Comp, Cancer Council Fundraiser Taree Showground Enq : Coralie Burnett
<b>November</b>	
<b>December</b> 	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> , Mid North Coast Dressage Championships Taree Showground Enq : Valerie , 65577074



# HORSE WANTED TO BUY

I am looking to buy a gelding to compete in local dressage competitions and take out for enjoyable pleasure/trail rides with my girlfriends. He would suitably be around 15 - 16hh, as I am only 5' 1" tall and he would need to be a sensible age, as I am a timid adult rider. I have years of riding experience but not confident so I would need one who is very quiet and would look after me. Preferably, he has been out and about and has seen it all and also doesn't mind if only ridden 2 - 3 times a week and sometimes not for a couple of weeks. I also want him to be my friend and best mate so he must love cuddles and lots of attention. He will have a fabulous home and will be completely spoiled and very well looked after.

If you have or know of anyone with a horse who fits this description for sale please phone:

Kerrie Prince on 0409 607 725



## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

The biggest fear of any event organiser in any sport must be the knowledge that someone may turn up to a cancelled event.

As most volunteers today work full time, have families, horses and run a home, the emergence of the internet as the main method of communication has been a godsend. It allows the organisers to send out group emails, update their website and avoid timely and costly calls to all entrants. All this can be done in the wee hours of the morning when the rest of the family is still in bed or in the late hours of the evening when things have quietened down, but too late to make calls.

To this end, MVDHC has embraced the computer age. Our Newsletters are now electronically sent, we have our own website and we have joined many other clubs and sports by utilising the website Nominate to make it easier for competitor and event organiser. No lost entries in the post and no missing cheques. We have even included a sentence on our entry form, found on both our website and Nominate, stating that each competitor should check the website for possible cancellations before leaving home.

The club takes responsibility for organising the event to the best of their ability, but the entrant must also take some responsibility to check that the event is still being held. This is especially important when there has been adverse weather, like the recent flooding along the coast from Newcastle to Coffs. Many areas on the mid north coast including Taree, which featured prominently on the TV, have been declared natural disaster areas. The cancellation of our competition was posted one week before the event due to flooded grounds at Gloucester. A group email was sent out via Nominate also notifying competitors of the cancellation. The fact that no draw was posted on our website must have also been a tell-tale sign that something was amiss. *But still someone considered coming.....?!!*

**Please**, if you are unsure as to whether an event is to be held, or have no access to a computer, then call the event organiser or any other contact person. This information will also always be on the website.

Valerie



All our horses were looking just like this not so long ago!!



## Rider Profile:

This month we hear from: **Natalie Pekic**

### ***1. When did you start riding?***

I think before I could walk, my older sisters had horses so they used to lead me around but I was about 5 years old when the lead rope was taken off and then the fun really began. I would canter everywhere (trotting was uncomfortable) and jump whatever was in front of me although I couldn't steer and hold on at the same time so I generally just held on and the horse looked after me.

### ***2. Your first/favourite horse?***

Actually my first horse was a cow! My elder sisters had horses but not me and I used to plead with my father to give me a horse too, but my pleas went unanswered so one day one of the old milking cows happened to walk

near a log I was standing on so I just jumped on her back and braced for the buck but it didn't come so I rode her every day from then on. Finally my parents realised I was serious so I was given a quarter horse cross stock horse called Slim Dusty (I think the cow was quite relieved) whom I would 'hoon' on everywhere and anywhere. I used to love pretending I was an Indian as I was only given this pony and a bridle, no saddle! So I learnt to ride bareback. My mum still has a heart attack when she recalls seeing her 7 year old daughter galloping up and down hills, jumping ditches and logs with no saddle whilst making the Indian war chant sound.

### ***3. What was your first competition?***

Bulahdelah Show 1993. I competed in the show jumping, sporting and tried the hacking but it was too slow! However now that I am older I quite enjoy hacking and dressage, who would've thought!

### ***4. Your most memorable experience?***

Competing at Sydney Royal last year in the ridden Pinto class on the 10 year old stallion Warragill Vanleo. It especially meant a lot to me as I had ridden and trained him since he was broken in at two and a half. We came second which was such an honour but to be honest competing in the ring wasn't the highlight – arriving at the show and getting ready and just experiencing the whole atmosphere was unbelievable. I can't wait to compete there again.

### ***5. The best advice anyone has ever given you?***

I don't think this has been advice that has actually been given to me but I have always believed that the only way to increase your confidence is to push yourself out of your comfort zone. This relates to horse riding and to life in general. If you keep doing things that are easy for you, you will never advance.

### ***6. Did you come from a family with a horsey background?***

Not really. My two older sisters were into horses but my mum and dad had no interest in them what so ever. Mum is allergic to them not to mention scared of them and my father preferred his vegetable garden. I think I must have been with horses in a past life because I have never had fear of them even as toddler, if I'd see a horse in someone's paddock I'd just go and hop on it. I really have no idea how I survived my childhood.

### ***7. Your best buy ever?***

A TB gelding called Mortimer. I got him when I was 18. He only cost \$1200 which was a bargain because he was an EFA show jumper and very educated on the flat, just lovely to ride. I had a lot of fun with him at pony club and shows.

### ***8. The handiest item in your tackroom?***

Towels! You can never have too many and they always come in handy both at home and at comps.

### ***9. The person that you most admire?***

My friend and occasional riding instructor David Cooper. He's such an amazing rider. Watching him complete a showjumping round even when the show jumps are like 1.40m he looks like he and the horse are doing a dressage test – so relaxed and calm – yet so balanced and forward. He is my equestrian idol but please don't tell him I wrote this! (lol).

### ***10. What is the future for you?***

To breed coloured performance/ show horses. I get bored doing the one thing so I like horses that can be competitive across many disciplines. There are not many coloured ones out there so I would like to change that. Also I plan on obtaining my EA Level One Instructors Certificate as I love instructing.

**Thank you Natalie!**