

Aoraki Western Riding Club, Inc.



"To Promote, Foster and Encourage the Sport of Western Riding and Horsemanship in the Aoraki Region"

Hi all... Hope this newsletter finds you enjoying this nice autumn weather we've been having. There have been a couple of **GREAT** club days since the April newsletter...Western Games Day & the Orari Trek. Thanks to Bronwyn, Lyn & their committee for putting on a fun Games Day. I discovered that my 5 yr old daughter is



competitive and **LOVES** ribbons! I'm guessing this Club outing will be the first of many! She wants to join the "Western Riding Hood" Well done to Bronwyn for putting her hand up and joining a club committee (its not that bad is it Bronwyn?!?). You did an awesome job! Thanks also to Dave Anderson for hosting and leading the Orari Trek. I've heard great reports...such as "I love trekking" from Charlotte Doudle (see above smiling face!) Thanks Charlotte for putting your photos on Facebook! Apologies...I think I forgot in the last newsletter to thank Mick Hogg for leading the Parinui Trek and also Maria for hosting & organizing the Cowboy Challenge Training Day. I was too busy adding photos to thank the ones responsible! I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM on 18 May! -Jodi

May 2010

<http://www.awrc.99k.org>

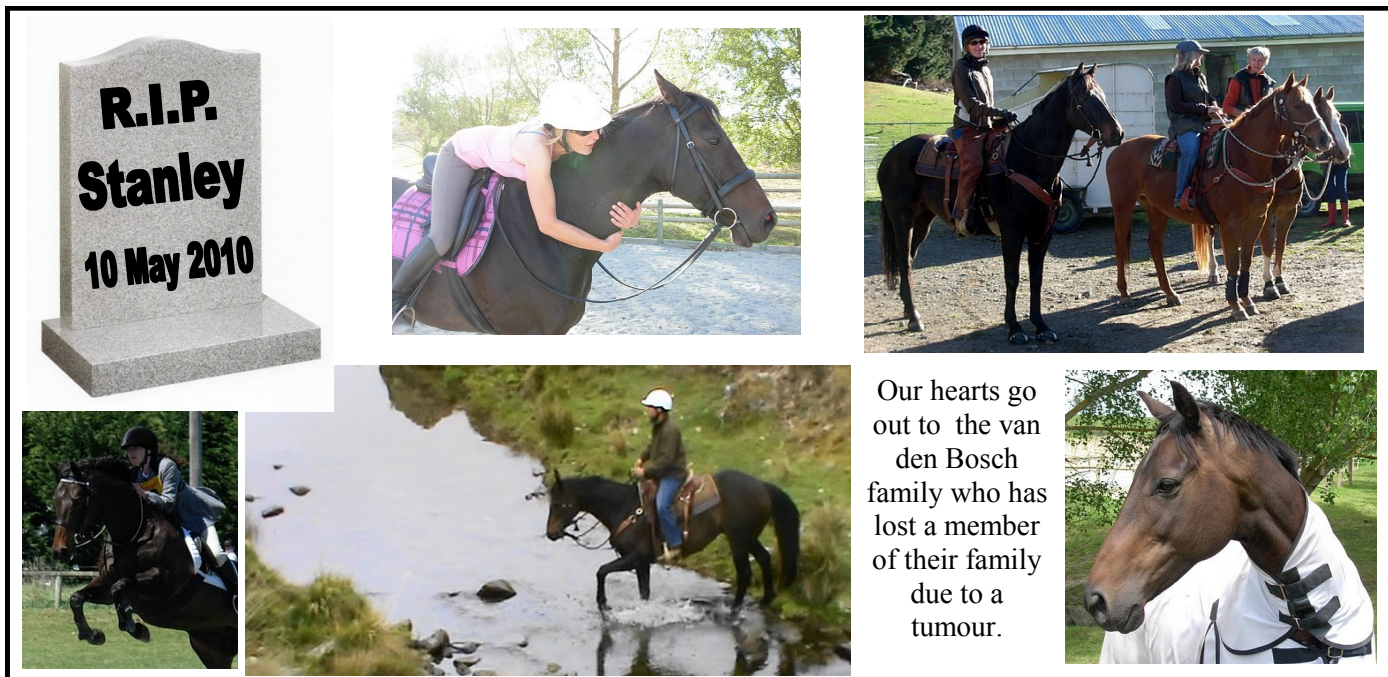
Aoraki Western Riding Club

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Our hearts go out to the van den Bosch family who has lost a member of their family due to a tumour.

MEMBER'S UPDATE....

WELCOME to New Members..

Niven Upham and Julie Fridd of Oxford
Rickelle and Renee Hazelton of Ashburton

We hope you enjoy being part of the AWRC!!

NEXT MEETING...

May 18 AWRC's Annual General Meeting
At Robbie's Bar & Bistro, 4 Latter Street (off of North Street), Timaru. Meal at 6:00, AGM at 7:30 followed by a General Meeting.

NEXT CLUB DAY...

CLUB SOCIAL / LEARNING EVENING

Saturday, 19 June 2010

At the Keri Drake's house.

From 6:00 p.m.

Contact Keri 614-8707

If you have an idea for a Club Day, come along to a meeting & bring it up...or let a committee member know and we can add it the agenda. Or, if you would like to help out with planning & running a club day...let a committee member know. The more hands the better!

NEXT MEETING.... ON TUESDAY 18TH OF MAY @ 7:30 (NOTE VENUE)

LOCATION: Robbie's Bar & Bistro, Timaru

This is our Annual General Meeting, followed by a general meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:30. Information will be coming out about the AGM, nominations, etc. We encourage you to attend. You won't be given any 'jobs' you don't want...but this

is a great opportunity to have your say in the AWRC.

Remember that you can always email or phone any of the committee members to have an item added to the agenda & spoken to on your behalf if you can't attend a meeting. Raewyn, Maria & Jodi's contact details are on page 1.

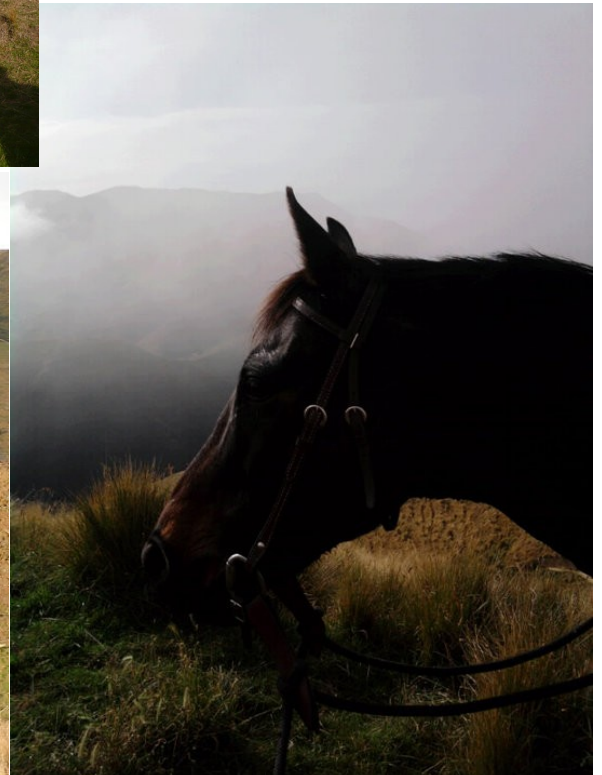
Also, if you contact Maria on 686-1723, you can have a copy of the minutes sent to you. So, you don't have to feel 'left out' if you can't make it to a meeting.

We look forward to your input and involvement and look forward to seeing you there!!!

WESTERN GAMES DAY- 18 APRIL 2010



ORARI TREK—8 MAY 2010



First-timer takes first and second at New Zealand Cutting Horse Nationals

As of Easter this year, Geraldine has another three New Zealand champions. Theresa Brown has come back from the Cutting Horse Nationals in Taupo with an impressive haul of trophies for herself and her two horses.

Though these were her first nationals, Theresa won the Open Non-Professional class. Her horse Abbe won the New Zealand High Point Mare and the American Quarter Horse Association New Zealand Registered Champion. However, the icing on the cake was taking first and second places in the Open New Zealand Cutting Horse Association's Champion Cutting Horse competition with her horses Abbe and Holi.

The horses gain points at each competition, and these are tallied at the nationals. Theresa has competed in 14 competitions this year and was surprised when Holi received second place as she hadn't even taken Holi to the final event in Taupo.

Theresa and her husband Mike live in Gapes Valley and have been riding horses for as long as they can remember. Theresa only started riding cutting horses after a tumble from a hunting horse left her badly injured 12 years ago.

"Mike was riding cutting horses and I was hunting," said Theresa. "I didn't feel like hunting after my accident, so started riding Mike's horse in ladies' events. Then I got Abbe (aka Little Oaks Empress) and started to train her."

The sport originated in the USA in 1946 and evolved from cowboys cutting cattle out of a herd. That sounds difficult enough, but the catch with Cutting Horse competitions is that once the steer or heifer is separated from the herd, the rider must drop the reins and let the horse control the animal. Once the cattle beast is beaten, the rider can pick up the reins and go and cut out another one. This goes on for two-and-a-half minutes.

The rider can help steer the horse with his or her feet, but a good cutting horse needs a fair amount of natural ability.

"You can't do good without a good horse," says Mike, who has been training and competing in cutting events for 28 years. He was the South Island's first professional trainer and has had his share of wins at national level, but he's never won both first and second places at the nationals, and can't remember it being done before.

"Theresa's done amazingly," said Mike, "I'm very proud of her."

Theresa says Mike deserves a lot of the accolades because he has been her trainer and "done a great job."

Mike disputes this, saying, "It's the horse that makes the trainer."

Theresa practises an hour per day per horse. Training Abbe took about five years. The husband and wife duo say the secret to riding cutting horses is good balance and understanding animals. They've had some heated exchanges in the training



New Zealand champion horse rider Theresa Brown with Abbe (Little Oaks Empress) and Holi (Holi Coco Sanbar), and her New Zealand nationals trophies. Photo: Lindsay Nelson.

ring (and divorce seemed imminent), but Theresa's stack of trophies bears testament to their dedication. "It's an amazing buzz when you turn the horse loose and they work for you," she says.

"It's better than golf," admits Mike, who still judges horse

cutting, but has now given competing away in favour of dog trialling.

And as for Abbe and Holi? They're looking forward to having the winter off.

Lindsay Nelson



**Western
Games Day
AWRC
HI POINTS
WINNERS...**

**Milly Perry in
Open**

And

**Jessica Mackay
In Lead Line**



MEMBERS PICS...



Michelle's daughter Bex on Summer
(I think Michelle has snuck in a ride too!



Maria's little guy....Willis
Almost ready to come "home"



Niven & Julie's new Western Horses
Frankie & Nonu



CLASSIFIEDS

If you would like to advertise, let me know... No charge for members!
Just phone 6147107 or email me jodipayne@farmside.co.nz

Somewhere...somewhere in time's own space ,There must be some sweet pastured place, Where creeks sing on and tall trees grow, Some Paradise where horses go. For by the love that guides my pen, I know great horses live again. By Stanley Harrison



In Praise of Horses...

God gives us horses and compels some of us to love them. Yet why does the horse, an animal with such a big heart, live such a short life? He gives us a few good years to care for and learn from them, but when the time is right, it's up to us to see them off gracefully. Okay, perhaps not gracefully. Blowing into a Kleenex is rarely graceful. But we can be grateful.

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle - or a computer - a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily, we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humour. Those prone to humour will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it. I found one of ours on the front porch one morning, eating the cornstalks I'd carefully arranged as Halloween decorations.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people - which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday - but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences...if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons

in courage, commitment, and compassion, in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn. And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals...Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - its about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, or a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honour our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place. And so we pray:

Dear God,
After You've enjoyed a bit of riding, please give our fine horses the best of
care. And, if it's not too much, might we have at least one more good gallop
when we meet again?
Amen

When you are tense, let me teach you to relax.

When you are short-tempered, let me teach you to be patient.

When you are short-sighted, let me teach you to see.

When you are quick to react, let me teach you to be thoughtful.

When you are angry, let me teach you to be serene.

When you feel worried, let me calm your fears.

When you feel superior, let me teach you to be respectful.

When you are self-absorbed, let me teach you to think of greater things.

When you are arrogant, let me teach you humility.

When you are lonely, let me be your companion.

When you are tired, let me carry the load.

When you need to learn, let me teach you.

After all, I am your horse.

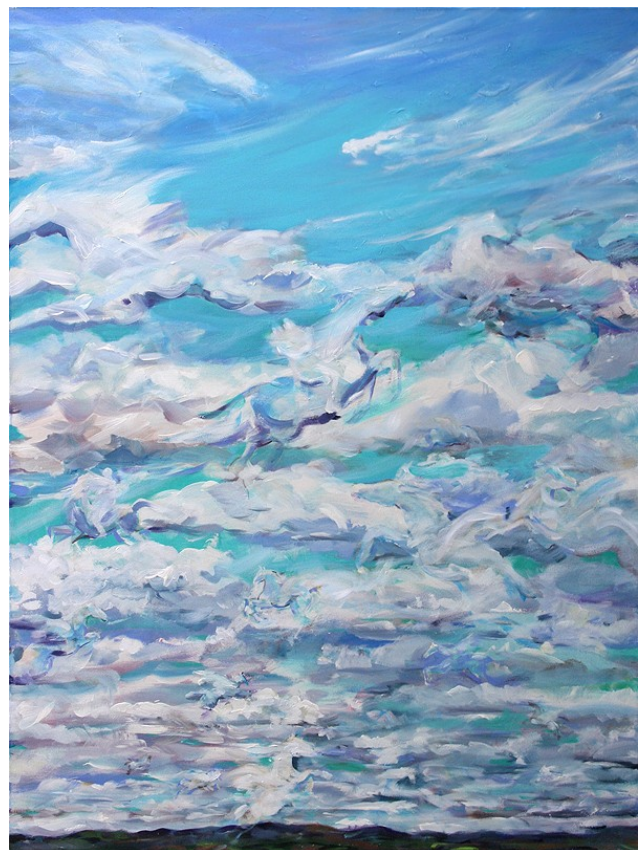
STILL LEARNING - STILL GROWING - STILL GOING

Have you ever thought about the process that all of us have in common and have the opportunity to experience every day? Each day presents many opportunities to **learn**. It doesn't matter what we are doing during the day. WE might be at home doing chores or we might be at our job as a mechanic, airline pilot or horseman. If we pay attention to what we are doing and always give our very best effort, we will learn something everyday. When we learn, we will **grow**. When we grow, we become more efficient – it doesn't matter what it may be; when we learn, we grow and when we grow we get better and when we get better it encourages us and allows us to keep **going**.

I make it a point to learn as much as I can each and every day. Each day I learn, I also grow as a horseman. Every time I walk into an arena, whether at home or on the road in front of a standing room only crowd, my goal is to **learn** and **grow**. That's the only way I can keep **going** up and down the road 44 weeks each year. **Learning, growing and going** is the ethic that has worked for me. Give it some thought – I am sure it will work for you, too.

Ride Smart and Live Large,

Craig Cameron



Aoraki Western Riding Club
<http://www.awrc.99k.org>

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Ph 03-686-1723 or 027-366-3016

If members want to check on whether an event needs to be cancelled or postponed due to weather conditions, members can ring 03 614 8707 (my ph number) from 8am onwards on Club days for a pre-recorded message to confirm if it's going ahead or being cancelled....Keri

Keri Drake (Events Director) — (03) 614-8707
Raewyn Olde-Olthof (President) — (03) 697-4959
Maria Van den Bosch (Secretary) - (03) 686-1723 or 027-366-3016

CLUB CALENDAR

May 18 AWRC's Annual General Meeting

At Robbie's Bar & Bistro, 4 Latter Street (off of North Street), Timaru. Meal at 6:00, AGM at 7:30 followed by a General Meeting. Apologies, Enquiries, Meal Numbers to Maria 686-1723

June 19 Club Social/Learning Evening

From 6:00. At Keri Drake's, 707 Pleasant Point Hwy (on the "Blue Gums Rd". Phone 614-8707 if you want more details/directions). The plan is a potluck tea (BYO plates, cutlery, etc), saddle fitting DVD, hoof care talk by Sally Thorne, and ??? well, a whole lotta fun!

The calendar looks a bit empty I know....

**But we hope to set club events/dates at the General Meeting
which will be held after the AGM.**

**So, come along to the AGM (nominations have closed so you don't
have to worry about being forced into a job) and let your voice be
heard about what you want to see happening with the AWRC.**

**Also, a great way to get more involved (if you want to be) is to put
your hand up to join a club day committee.**

The "Aoraki Western Riding Club" Facebook group page has been growing steadily. If you are a Facebook member, just type the name in the search box and up it will come. If you aren't a Facebook member, it's pretty easy...and a fun way to share photos, events, etc. All members will be able to upload their favourite club day photos, their new horses, etc...

If you would like to advertise in this newsletter or contribute photos, articles, etc., please contact Jodi Payne Phone: (03) 614-7107 or Email: jodipayne@farmside.co.nz