Hi all, it’s been a while between newsletters and we have lots to report and some new photos. There’s Alex with Red Hot Bandit, showing off his first place rug from Albury Horse Trials (photo Gary Cooper, full report from Albury inside). We also have a report from Berrima HT and from our showjumping clinic.

The meetings now are much taken up with planning our event; remember we have an earlier date this year, 7th/8th August. Jane Barnes is keeping track of what needs to be done and everyone who has been allocated a job should hear from Jane soon. Anyone who hasn’t got a specific job, please come and help at our working bees. There is a lot of cleaning up to be done on the course.

Some exciting news from the committee is that Wagga and Harden horse trials have put up $1500 between them as extra prizes for Prelim to 1* riders. The prizes will be awarded on a points basis for performances at Harden and Wagga … more details on the website and in event promotional material which I will circulate soon.

We have had several well attended training days already this year, and from now until the event we will be running working bee/training days. We won’t be collecting riding fees on these days, but we do need you to do some work, before riding, same as last year. The dates set are 16 May, 20 June, 4 July and 18 July (note all of these are to be confirmed). Alex will be organizing the May and June working bee/training days and you will need to email him please and let him know if you are coming.

We were all pleased to learn at our meeting that Riv. SJ Club will run the showjumping at our event again. It was so good to be able to hand that over last year and they did a great job. Pencillers are needed: if you can put up your hand to pencil, or know someone who can then just send me an email.

Other news: we have a club brochure, with information for members and prospective members, or just for people who are interested in our wonderful sport! I will put copies in the local saddleries. You can also download a pdf from our website if you want to check out the content. Main Event Photography allowed us to use pics from our 2008 HT and they look great.

Another event the committee would like you to support is the showjump competition being run by the CSU equine students on Saturday 1st May. This is an important part of the student’s learning experience and last year they ran a really good competition. We are co-hosts of this event, but you don’t have to work, just bring your horse and enjoy.

That’s it except for wishing Glenys and Hector well for young dressage champi-ionships at the CDI this weekend, and good luck to everyone heading to the Canberra HT. Please contact me if you have news to share.

Cheers Rachel
(rcrise@csu.edu.au)
Andrew and Rubeun, 1st winners at Berrima HT

Andrew Cooper and his horse Guest of Honour (Rubeun) took out first place in the CIC1star class at The Briars International One Day Event at Berrima south of Bowral recently. The Berrima Event is one of the few International Events on the east coast and attracts over 400 competitors many whom are professional riders, and seasoned competitors with a lot of international experience.

Andrew and Rubeun received high scores from both dressage judges which gave them the lead in the field of 40. Just one point ahead of Natalie Blundell going into the show jumping phase of the event Andrew and Rubeun had one rail down but still managed to increase their lead. Andrew and Rubeun jumped clear cross country and within time limit giving them first place. Andrew had another successful run on his young horse, Vintage Rose, who placed 7th in the Prelim class.

Rounding off the Wagga contingent at the event, Georgina Richardson was extremely pleased with her young mare Secret Rendezvous placing equal 18th against professional Sydney Rider Hamish Cargill. (Story from the DA, photos Gary Cooper.)

Show jump clinic report: Jane Falepau

Lovely wet weather kept us nicely indoors on the Friday half day. Two classes with nine horses in all, included a Prelim group and a green horse group. Half of all the riders were members of our club.

Saturday a further 17 horses filled four classes, and were made up of horses from Pony Club level through to pre-novice. There were fewer club members that day, but with some uni students and an ARC member all wanting to join as a result of the exposure to our club through the clinic. Also, one uni student took advantage of Bob’s mentoring and assessment to help with her gaining her Level One.

Each group had two lessons. The first lesson helped riders to focus on key flatwork for showjumpers. A testing second lesson saw many considered competent horses, working hard through grid work.

Many thanks were received for the clinic. I passed on our thanks to Bob and his daughter Kym, for their time and effort.
Wagga Horse Trials and Hunt Club continue to hold their own on the eventing circuit, with the recent Albury event. In Intro A Phil Cock and Twiggy placed 10th with 70.2 penalties. In intro B we had committee member Alex Aldana on Michelle’s mount Red Hot Bandit collect first prize finishing up on his brilliant dressage score with 48.8 penalties (we are all waiting for this combination to appear at Adelaide next year!).

Intro B also saw fellow club members Rachel Crease placed 5th with her gorgeous mount Katarmi on 50.8 penalties and Jillian Skeers with Wreck Law place 15th! Brilliant effort from a field of 27 in Intro B and 29 in Intro A.

Prelim A saw 3 of our club members place. First with Kirsty O’Brien and Suntaria taking out 4th place with 66.0 penalties (definitely another combination to watch for the future), secondly Junior Andrew Cooper and Vintage Rose completing the weekend on 68.0 penalties (picking up 8 in showjumping) to finish 9th, and junior Tanisha Shields with Macmamate finishing 10th with 68.8 penalties. In Prelim B we had two of our club members: Tanya Shields and Dasha finished in 12th Place with 64.10 penalties, and Stephanie Menzies and Midnight came in at 18th. Pre Novice A saw one of the ever so talented Harding Team Tania, with Jirrima Yabba Dabba doo place 8th with 76.0 penalties, Pre Novice B included club members Tegan Bonet (her first Pre-Nov start) and Bulletproof (previously run at 3* level by local Katie Henderson) finish 9th with 66.9 penalties and outstanding effort from the Bonet team. Pre Novice B also saw Tania Harding and Jirrima Yorkshire (a horse with a medium trot you HAVE to see) placing 12th with only 72.8 penalties.

Finishing up the club presence was junior rider Andrew Cooper and Guest of Honour one of the few to go clear cross country in one* to finish up on 81.1 penalties.

Competitors and spectators alike were treated to a dressage performance from the reigning Adelaide 4* champion Stuart Tinney and the grey warmblood Vettori, an absolutely breathtaking performance which had the audience on the hill drooling (Jane suggested we make Stuart an offer... not for the purchase of Vettori, merely for a lead-line ride!)

Until next time!

Georgina
The end of an era has come with the passing of an old faithful. Boots had to be one of the oldest horses active right till the end. At the age of 30+ she had an eventful life. Tracey Bonet found her hit by a car out the front of her house in 1983 and when her owner Val Smith was located she allowed Tracey to continue to nurse her back to health, Tracey owned her for the rest of her life getting more than her money’s worth of use out of her. Boots did her bit for the community by giving the riders at Riding for The Disabled her services from 1992-1999. She gave many hours of fun and enjoyment to many of the special children and adults that were lucky enough to ride her. The benefit she gave these people was unquantifiable, from the physiotherapy point of view to the recreation and enjoyment. While at RDA, Vanessa Williams, Treena Goldman, Kristy O’Brien and myself were all lucky enough to ride her to pony club events, pony club and RDA camps and later on into open competition with horse trials and show jumping.

Boots went on to be retired and dragged out of retirement over and over because she just kept going like a trooper and refused to act like an ‘old’ horse. Tegan Bonet, Emily Tonacia, Rosie Monteleone, Renae McGregor and Tegan Ness to name a few. She taught us all how to jump, dressage and how to avoid being bitten when doing up the girth! She was a sucker for food, conning us all into “I haven’t been fed yet” routine. She was playing the role of groom in a fancy dress at RDA where Treena rode her side saddle as a bride, Show jumping queen in the indoor arena at the university where I jumped her to a 1.20m in the winter show jumping comps of the Horse Trials.

Boots spent her last days lazing around Treena’s farm at Collingullie keeping the cattle and ostriches company. Truly enjoying her retirement at last!

Shannon Smith (O’Brien)