



JULY 2020 NEWSLETTER



Past-President's AGM Report **2019-2020**

A good start to the season was diminished by the topsy-turvy finish due to lockdowns associated with Covid-19. We unfortunately had to farewell from the district our longstanding member of the Club, Pam Nathan, for her move to Auckland. A convivial lunch for both WDWDA members and friends of Pam from throughout the lower North Island was held on 19 October.

The Wairarapa A&P Show Harness Section on 2 November 2019 was a great event spurred on I am sure by having a United Kingdom judge, Jack Turner. Debbie Phelps with Diesel won the Supreme award against a field of seven.

The Graded Dressage, Cones and Bogey Time Trial was held on 1 December at Clareville. The number of competitors was up to the normal level. I noted in my diary that as the Bogey Time Trial was only 5km. It was finished by 11am and competitors were able to leave in good time. No dogs or lawn mower races to disturb the peace.

Several members went to the Dressage Championships in Hastings in early January 2020. These are always good events. There were several members at the CDDA Combined Drive towards the end of January, and this was an excellent competition. The harness classes at the Masterton A&P Show were cancelled due to lack of entries.

A fortnight later on 8-9 February WSWDA held its annual Combined Drive at Clareville and again we had good numbers competing. This event was a great club combined effort, with members planning and building obstacles, and others providing assistance with the Dressage and Cones phases. This certainly took the load off the experienced members. Congratulations to all involved. The last two Combined Driving events in the lower North Island saw members competing at Gisborne in February, and Makotuku in early March.

NZCDS had the opportunity to compete at the Horse of Year event in mid-March which this year included an evening Scurry and a combined dressage, cones and obstacles event. This may be the beginning of a new phase of carriage driving at HOY.

My thanks to all members who have contributed to the running of the club this year. It is never an easy process to run a club with a very small membership with people having to fit in voluntary work with their full-time jobs. And those who are retired are not always free to use their time for the club.

Cheers *Bob*

- OBITUARY -

One of the Clubs' lifetime members, Pam Nathan sadly passed away on the 30 June. She will be greatly missed, as our mentor and matriarch. Her knowledge of carriage driving and horses was widely appreciated throughout New Zealand. Pam was always willing to help new members, finding the suitable ponies and tack to suit with encouraging advice along the way. Dressage was her passion, a lady to be reckoned with in the arena. Along with Golden Halo her beautiful palomino Pam competed right up until last season. When her illness prevented her from continuing driving, it was a sad day. Although her enthusiasm never stopped. One of saying was 'never give up always keep trying' and she did!





From right to left Award winners: Sheryl Weir, Debbie Phelps, Wayne Millar, Cathy Venn and Joanne Hardy (seated).

WSWDA Awards

Club Champion:	Debbie Phelps
Reserve Club Champion:	Cathy Venn
Dave Meadows Trophy: (Cones)	Debbie Phelps
Walls Family Trophy: (Dressage)	Wayne Millar
Most Improved Driver:	Cheryl Weir
Lincoln Award: (Lowest penalty points CDT)	Oliver Behrns
Burlings Transport Award:	Debbie Phelps
(Tiny Pony lowest penalty points CDT)	
Ray Holdaway Award for Novice Driver:	no award made
Bummer Award:	Joanne Hardy
Minties Moments:	no awards

WSWDS MOVING ON...



My goodness, there have been so many changes since lockdown – nobody, really nobody thought of the impact this would create, globally and for our little country! And too, our club. With everyone the Wairarapa Shafts & Wheels Driving Association has been in lockdown, until released to Level One a just few short weeks ago.

The AGM meeting set for May was cancelled and rescheduled for 26 June with 12 members attending and apologies from nine others.

Matters Arising from the previous minutes -The President noted that from his notes the previous AGM had agreed to raise the subscriptions from the 2020 AGM. After discussion it was agreed that the subscriptions for 2020 – 2021 be retained at the 2019 levels Family \$30, Individuals \$20, Social \$10 and Junior \$10. The subscriptions would be reviewed again at the 2021 AGM.

Moved Judy Pawson Seconded Cheryl Weir

Correspondence -The President referred to an email he had received from Eventing Wairarapa seeking support from WSWDA for Grant applications to improve the eventing facilities at Clareville, including especially the water jump. After a short discussion it was agreed to adopt the response prepared in return to Event Wairarapa – in summary “On behalf of WSWDA we would support further development of the water jump at Clareville...We are a very small club (about 12 regular drivers) and would not be in a position to contribute financially to the redevelopment”.

Moved Bob Macfarlane Seconded Pat Dutton

Delegate’s Report - Bob Macfarlane read his Delegate’s Report. The one issue that required a decision was the date of the Graded Dressage, Cones and Bogey Time Trial, proposed for 28-29 November 2020. Stratford Harness Driving proposes to hold a new Show - Graded Dressage and CDT event during the Stratford A&P Show on 28-29 November. The AGM was asked to consider whether to maintain the 28-29 November date, or whether to find another suitable date, and give up the 28-29 November date

to Stratford Harness Driving.

It was agreed that the new President would discuss alternative dates with Wairarapa A&P before making a decision. *Bob moved the adoption of his report, seconded Pat, Adopted.*

Financial Report - Pat Dutton presented her Treasurer’s report. The AGM approved the payment of \$90 for the flowers sent to Pam Nathan, and \$30 for the wine for the Auditor. The AGM confirmed the travel allowance of \$300 for the Delegate for the 2020–2021 year. Treasurer and President to organise revised signatories for the Bank Account *Pat moved the adoption of her Report, seconded Debbie Phelps, Adopted*

President’s Report Bob Macfarlane read his President’s Report. *Bob moved the adoption of his report, seconded Judy Pawson, Adopted.*

Election of Officers

Patron:	Pat Dutton
President:	Cheryl Weir
Vice President:	Maree Leete
Secretary:	Dianna Behrns
Treasurer:	Pat Dutton
Delegate:	Debbie Phelps
Newsletter:	Judy Pawson
Publicity:	Debbie Phelps
Equipment:	John Fletcher and Oliver Behrns
Album Custodian:	Andrea Thomson
Trophy Coordinator:	Pat Dutton
Auditor:	Andrew Bichan

General Business - It was noted that the Wairarapa A&P Society had decided that horse classes at the 2020 A&P Show must have a minimum of three entries. Agreed that the new Committee would look at the Wairarapa Harness Schedule and make recommendations about altering the Schedule with a view to preparing a revised schedule that would attract a minimum of three entries per class.

Do's and Don'ts for Driving Safety

1. **Don't** ever remove the bridle and reins from an equine while it is still hitched to a vehicle!!!
This is probably the #1 preventable cause of runaways.
2. **Do** fasten your traces first and undo them last when hitching to and unhitching from a vehicle. If the animal is startled, you don't want the cart attached by a wrap strap with the traces undone; this can cause an awful wreck.
3. **Don't** make assumptions about your equine's ability to handle new experiences. Just because he's broke to ride doesn't mean he's broke to drive; being steady in the ring doesn't necessarily mean he'll be steady on the road or trail.
4. **Do** take the time to gradually and systematically train your equine and get him used to new equipment, locations, and activities.
5. **Don't** ever leave an equine unattended while it is hitched to a vehicle. Experienced whips sometimes tie a horse briefly while hitching and unhitching if they are alone, but it is better to unhitch the animal before it is tied.
6. **Do** make sure that your vehicle and harness fit and are suitable for your equine, and are properly adjusted. This is a matter of safety as well as comfort.
7. **Don't** ever let passengers enter the vehicle, or allow them to remain in it, unless the driver is seated and ready to go. The driver is always the first and last person on the vehicle.
8. **Do** double-check your turnout before moving off, to see that every thing is fastened and adjusted correctly.
9. **Don't** hitch or drive an animal alone unless you and your equine are both very experienced. Be sure that your helper is capable of helping.
10. **Do** wear a helmet, especially while training, driving out, competing in timed events, or any other time that your brain seems valuable.
11. **Don't** forget your spares when driving away from home.
12. **Do** keep your harness and vehicle in good repair. Having a rein, trace, girth, or wheel break while you are driving can be disastrous.
13. **Don't** hesitate to listen to your own common sense.
You know your equine best; if something seems off, wrong, or unsafe, pay attention.
14. **Do** learn with a gentle, trained equine, if you are new to driving.
The old adage, "green and green equals black and blue" is as true for driving as it is for riding.
15. **Don't** allow non-horsemen and children to pat your equine while it is in harness. It's too easy for them to either scare the horse or get run over if something else spooks it.
16. **Do** carry a whip at all times. It doesn't do any good in an emergency if it is in the socket or back at the trailer.
17. **Don't** take on passengers, particularly children, unless you are sure that both they and your animal will be obedient. Passengers should wear helmets, too.
18. **Do** seek out information and help when you need it. The only dumb question is the one that you didn't ask, that the answer to would have kept you out of trouble!

New Zealand Carriage Driving Society Inc. Achievement Certificate

Level 1

Object, to show competence in handling and driving a harness horse safely.

1. **Demonstrate how to lead and tie up a horse.**
 - a. When leading, is the horse under control?
 - b. A quick release knot, Is the length of the rope right?
2. **Put cover on and remove, correct sequence?**
3. **Name basic parts of horse and basic requirements with regard to:**
 - a. Signs of healthy/unhealthy horse.
 - b. Common injuries and ailments and what to do.
 - c. Recognise signs of lameness.
 - d. Care of horse/pony following exercise/competition.
4. **Understand the fitting and care of harness and maintenance of the vehicle.**
 - a. Check winker fit if applicable, setting of bit, breastplate, breeching height.
 - b. Check vehicle for points of wear with regard to keeping vehicle safe.
5. **Harness and unharness a horse safely.**
 - a. Is the horse under control?
 - b. Not putting vehicle on/off before the bridle.
 - c. Are the reins easily accessible?
 - d. Emphasis on correct order with regard to safety.
6. **Get in and out of the vehicle safely.**
 - a. Must be first in and last out of the vehicle.
 - b. Have reins inhand and horse under control.
 - c. Knowledge of aids used to move forward, change pace and halt.
7. **Drive on the road with full knowledge of rules/signals.**
 - a. Have control over horse at all times.
 - b. Know how to react to emergencies.
8. **Drive horse safely over rolling terrain.**
 - a. Balance horse in breeching before going down a hill.
9. **Back the horse - Use of aids - Voice.**
10. **Know how to drive with courtesy and safely amongst other carriage ponies/horses.**
11. **General impression.**

The candidate should portray that he/she is a competent person to drive a horse/pony in a safe and sensible manner amongst other carriage ponies. The candidate must perform all tasks to a safe standard.



BREAKING NEWS

The Christmas Graded Dressage

weekend has been moved to

12-13 December 2020



During one of my many conversations with Pam, the subject of teamwork was discussed and the following article was suggested for our newsletter. I feel that this is an appropriate time for this to be published. Thank you Pam for your wise words.



Geese Formation

As each goose flaps its wings it creates an UPLIFT for the birds that follow. By flying in a 'V' formation the whole flock adds 71% extra to the flying range. When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds in front. When a goose tires of flying up front it drops back into formation and another goose moves up to the point position. When a goose gets sick, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to the ground to help and protect it. Geese flying in formation 'HONK' to encourage those up front to keep up with their effort.

Therefore: When we have a sense of community and focus, we create trust and can help each other to achieve our goals. If we had as much sense as geese we would stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others. It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks. We should respect and protect each other's unique compliment of skills, capabilities, talents and resources. If we have as much sense as geese we will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong. We need to make sure our honking is encouraging. In groups and teams where there is encouragement, production is greater.

Individual empowerment results from quality honking.

