

# Smythesdale Adult Riders



**Welcome to new and returning members of  
Smythesdale Adult Riders' Club (SARC)**

*For Horse Enthusiasts of All Levels*

Our home grounds are at the  
**Woody Yaloak Equestrian Centre (WYEC)** Lords Rd,  
Smythesdale

SARC is a very friendly and supportive club catering for riders from Level 5 to Advanced, across disciplines of dressage, showing, show jumping, eventing and navigational riding. The club recently celebrated its 20th anniversary.

**The WYEC facility consists of the following:**

- Full competition sized cross country course to CNC\*\*\* level.
- One fully enclosed sand area capable of holding:
  - four full sized dressage arenas
  - two full sized show jumping arenas
- Amenities buildings and clubrooms
- 114 holding yards
- Access to forest riding trails



***SARC is for riders over the age of 18 years and is affiliated with the  
Horse Riding Club Association of Victoria (HRCV)***

**The objectives of the HRCV apart from overseeing the overall interests of its members, are summarised as follows:**

- *to promote interest in equestrian sports*
- *to promote good fellowship among those interested in equestrian sports*
- *to educate, train, coach and encourage members of the association*
- *to do all such things and acts conducive to the furtherance of the objects and interests of the association; and*
- *above all else.....have fun.*

## HRCav Magazine

“Chaff Chat” is the official monthly publication of the HRCav which is sent to members electronically each month. It can also be home delivered by paying a subscription directly through the HRCav office. There are many interesting and useful articles each month. If you intend on competing, this magazine is very helpful as it also lists all the events being held by other clubs (the HRCav calendar is also on its website).



## Joining fees

SARCs membership year is from **1 November to 31 October**. To become a full financial member for the year, club fees are to be paid by 1 November (this is paid up-front, no more to pay). If you are interested in joining please contact the treasurer or secretary to obtain a 'joining link' and fee schedule.

**Joining fees include:**

***HRCav membership fees***

***HRCav insurance fees***

***SARC membership fee (which includes a facility fee for use of WYEC on rally days)***

*Please note that use of the WYEC facility at other times requires you to take out '[casual membership](#)' at the centre. This can be arranged through the [WYEC Bookings Officer](#)*

The SARC membership fee varies depending on the type of membership you choose—the options being:

- Full membership including instruction at rallies
- Competition membership - competition members can ride on the grounds on rally day; or are able to book one lesson per rally providing there are vacancies within the rally plan for a total of \$35.00 per rally.
- Non-riding membership (for those with an interest in the equestrian sports, but unable to ride)

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the secretary, who will send you a link to complete your application.. A Disclaimer Statement must be signed each year upon payment of fees.

## Club uniform



**SARC colours** are burgundy (wine) with **minimal** black or white (burgundy is the **main** colour).

**Polo shirts:** mainly burgundy with white or black piping. These can be worn for all competition disciplines except showing where for presentation reasons a vest and button up shirt is strongly suggested. SARC polo shirts can be purchased online or from some of the uniform shops in Ballarat. Impact Teamwear also have some.

**Jodhpurs:** black, white or beige jodhpurs are acceptable across all disciplines. Beige and banana jodhpurs are to be used when showing or for open PCAV (pony club) events. White only, for EA events.

**Saddle cloths:** can be purchased from local saddlery retailers or on-line.

**SARC logos** can be embroidered at Impact Teamwear – 147 Learmonth Street, Alfredton, There are two SARC logos acceptable for use and Impact have both.

Alternatively sew-on logo patches can be purchased from the club (\$15) and attached to uniform or saddle blanket.

**Vests:** Competition vests in burgundy(wine) are the most common attire for competing in dressage, showing and show jumping. They can have black and or/white trim but must be sleeveless as per HRCav rules. A white or black shirt is worn underneath.

***It is not compulsory to wear uniform/ club colours at rally, however it is encouraged.***



## Rules and safety equipment

### Riding helmets:

An approved equestrian helmet with a fixed harness **MUST** be worn at all times whilst mounted. The required standards for helmets at HRCav competitions and rallies is AS/NZS 3838 (AU), ASTM F 1163 (USA), PAS 015 (UK) and VG1 (Europe). The EN 1384 (Europe) standard is only acceptable for helmets which were manufactured prior to 2016.

Members are reminded that helmets should be replaced following a fall and that the generally accepted usable life of most helmets is **five years**. Please check the label in your helmet to ensure that it complies with the new rules.

*Note: All riders are required to use a tagged helmet in Show Jumping, Horse Trials, Combined Training events and Navigation Rides. Helmet tagging opportunities will be advertised on the website and the HRCav official Facebook page. Helmets tagged under the Equestrian Australia system will be accepted.*

<https://hrcav.com.au/helmet-tagging/>



### Riding boots:

Riding boots are a compulsory requirement and must be worn at rallies and all events. Under no circumstances will members be allowed to ride without them. Suitable riding boots are:

- long rubber/leather/synthetic top boots with a smooth sole and heel
- short rubber/leather/synthetic short elastic sided/riding boots with a smooth sole and heel (*Blundstone type work boots or runners with a heel are not allowed*).

### Medical Armbands:

Medical armbands are compulsory for all jumping phases at competitions and they are strongly encouraged to be worn at rallies.

### Body protectors:

Body protectors are compulsory for cross country lessons at rallies and for the cross country phase of horse trials. A body protector manufactured after 2009 and labelled as complying to one of the following standards is mandatory:

- EN13158:2009 level 3
- BETA 2009 level 3
- EN13158:2018 level 3
- BETA 2018 Level 3

It is up to the rider to ensure that their vest complies with these standards. See [HRCav website](https://hrcav.com.au) for further clarification



## Membership cards

After joining, riders new to the HRCav will be issued with an HRCav membership card. This card will be posted to SARC's secretary who will stamp it and sign it to **confirm your membership** of our club. (Membership card must be stamped each year after re-joining to be validated).

One complete set of competition cards is also issued to new members. Riders who have been a member of HRCav before (even if some years ago) will need to let the SARC secretary know what their old membership number was. This number will most likely still be valid. If your old membership card is no longer useable, or you cannot find it, please let the secretary know, as they will need to request a new card. Re-joining members simply need to have their existing card stamped to validate for the current membership year.

**Please make sure you contact HRCav – email [irene@hrcav.com.au](mailto:irene@hrcav.com.au) if there is no place on your card for the next year's stamp.**

***Your membership card is usually requested to be given to the Event Secretary at all official events as proof of being a 'financial' member, however with the advent of COVID-19 rules there has been a move to online check ins by event secretaries. Please take your membership card with you to competitions to avoid any problems***

## Name badges

New members are encouraged to purchase a name badge when paying their initial membership fees (currently \$15.00). This badge will identify you to other members and instructors and it is encouraged that you wear it at club rallies. The badge can also be worn at official competitions if you wish to do so.

## Club rallies

Rallies are held on the second Sunday of the month all year round. All club events are held at the WYEC grounds unless otherwise advised. SARC operates out of the bottom carpark and rally day parking can be accessed from the second access gate at the end of Lords Road.



As part of SARC membership fees riders can choose two lessons per rally. A third lesson can be requested after main rally plan has been published and is subject to instructor availability. The rider will need to pay \$15.00 for an extra lesson which is pre-payable by direct debit.

In the week/s prior to rally, riders are asked via email, Facebook or private message to nominate which type of lesson they would like - flat, jumping, grid or cross-country. In the week prior the 'Rally Coordinator' will distribute a rally plan to members via the SARC Facebook page.

There is a maximum of four riders per flat lesson and we aim for a maximum of four riders per jump lesson. If there are more than four riders interested in a jumping lesson, the lesson time can be extended to 1.5 hours to accommodate everyone.

**If there are vacancies within the rally plan competition members may book one lesson for a total of \$35.00 per rally.**



Once you arrive on rally day you need to sign the attendance book in the clubrooms including contact details of your next of kin (in case of an emergency). You are also required to write in the attendance book if you have ambulance cover or hold a first aid certificate.

Please have your horse warmed up and be ready to ride before your allocated lesson so as to not disrupt a lesson underway.

Riders **MUST NOT** go over any jump obstacles until instructed to do so.



### ***Sharing the load***

There is an expectation that all riders will help out in some way with jobs at rallies. Lending a hand makes all 'jobs' easier and is a great way to get to know other members. Some of the tasks include:

- Setting up (from shed) and packing away (into shed) equipment needed for rally lessons such as: cones to mark the lesson areas; cavaletti equipment for grid classes; extra show jumps (brick wall or Jump For Joy jumps) or arena letters as required
- Picking up manure off the arenas and surrounding grass or driveways
- Picking up manure from the yards and parking areas – from your own horse and from other's horses
- Helping in the kitchen throughout the day: heating up the food people have brought for lunch, doing some dishes, cleaning up or helping put chairs on tables at the end of the day to help out the duty person.
- Packing away equipment: cones, wheelbarrows, arena letters, grid poles





Members will be selected via a roster system for these monthly tasks – these will be noted on the rally plan.

Cleaning the clubrooms after the rally involves cleaning the floors (sweeping and sometimes mopping) and the toilets (ladies and men's). If you have been rostered on and cannot attend, please find a replacement or alternatively ask a committee member to do so.

Members are encouraged to bring a plate of food to share for lunch. We have a cooktop/ oven/ microwave. If you are riding and your food needs reheating, the rider rostered on kitchen duty will take care of it. Lunchtime is a great opportunity to socialise and chat.

Leave some time to *Lend A Hand!*

A lot of effort goes into running 'Rally Day', don't leave it all to others.

There are plenty of jobs to go around just ask!

*See You There!*



*Please*

**DON' T FORGET TO :**

- ✓ Let the rally coordinator know if you can't make it
- ✓ Bring something to share for lunch
- ✓ Introduce yourself to new members - make them feel welcome
- ✓ Clean up all your horse poo (**EVERYwhere** they left it!)

## Instructors

Each year, we secure regular instructors and also invite guest instructors. Our instructors have a wealth of knowledge and experience and will help you improve your riding and set about achieving your goals.

If you know of an instructor that you think SARC riders may enjoy or who would be willing to be a special guest instructor at one of our rallies, please advise the rally coordinator.



## Stallions

HRCav and SARC allow stallions at their events. Riders and handlers must be over the age of 18 and the horse must wear a green ID tag at all times. Transportation must also display appropriate signage so that everyone is aware of a stallion's presence. Please keep other horses and riders in mind with safety.

### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Any family/friends who visit SARC on a rally day are asked to stay at the clubrooms or on the grass around the clubrooms for their own safety. Children attending rally must be supervised at all times by a person 18yrs or older while you are riding. They are to be kept close to either the clubrooms or around their parents' car. Running and bike riding is not permitted so as not to distract or unsettle horses and riders and strictly no children should be mounted upon a horse at any time due to insurance issues.



## Ambulance Subscription

Please note that if you have an accident at a SARC rally and require medical attention, a club committee member will call an ambulance. If you do not yet have an ambulance subscription it is advised to do so (the club accepts no responsibility for any costs incurred). There is a first aid room at the grounds for minor issues.



## Arena Etiquette

The most important thing to remember when riding in a group is to pay attention to the other riders - **be aware of how horses are reacting** and be courteous. Accidents can happen easily when riders have their eyes down and aren't paying attention to others.

### Passing another rider

Call "**Passing**" or "**heads-up**" to make yourself known. Never pass within two metres of another horse as some horses are frightened of 'horse traffic'.



If you are passing someone coming from the opposite direction (head on) pass left shoulder to left shoulder. Stay well to the inside/outside of the track within the arena - keep distance between you. If you are too close to next rider:

**DO perform** a 10-metre circle to create distance then return to the track

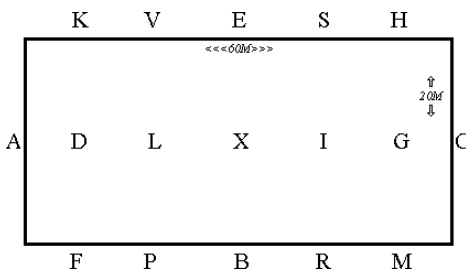
**DON'T cut people off** or run up their backsides.

**DO leave at least two horses'** distance between you or look around the arena and ride into an empty space

**DON'T just halt** attempting to gain space between you and the horse in front if there is another one behind you

### Moving off the track

When executing figures keep your eyes up and be aware of what others are doing around you. Try to get a section of the ring to yourself. If you are walking while other people are trotting or cantering, stay off the track ie. move towards the centre of the ring, so they don't have to ride around you.



### Changing Direction

You should turn towards the middle of the ring and make a half circle. It is acceptable, and sometimes more practical, to cut across the ring, diagonal, or make a tear drop shape. When tracking in the opposite direction of everyone else, pass left shoulder to left shoulder. When changing direction with the group in a tight space, follow the person in front of you through their turn so no one gets cut off.

## Performance Cards

New members will receive a full set of performance cards on joining. Please don't put details on cards until the day of level assessment. Once a horse's name is written on cards it cannot be changed. A new card must be ordered for each additional horse and these can be ordered from the HRCav office.

A performance card is required for each horse for each discipline for those members wishing to compete in official events. The performance card shows the levels that have been achieved by the horse/rider combination in each phase of competition.

A valid performance card must have:

- Membership number as printed on the membership card
- Member's name
- Horse's competition name, size, sex, colour and brands (note; if not branded, this section should be noted as "n/a")
- Horse/rider combination level assessment details for each of the relevant disciplines.

The relevant performance card must be given to the Event Secretary at all official events as proof of assessment. If you fail to present your performance card you may not be permitted to ride although you may be allowed to compete Hors Concours (not competing for a prize). **This not possible for jumping events for safety reasons.**

Many commercial event secretaries now use electronic check ins – so please check the event information re checking in.

***Please Note: The use of correction fluid and/or stickers covering old information deems a card invalid.***

## Level Assessment

To stimulate equestrian sport, it is necessary to have meaningful competition between competitors of similar abilities, (encompassing the range between the less competent and the most competent). Within the HRCav, this is referred to as Level Assessment.



Level Assessment is the vehicle by which all members of the HRCav have access to fair and safe competition. This system provides a means for members of similar ability to compete together in fair and equal competition.

Assessment is compulsory for those members wishing to compete in official events however you don't need to be assessed for rally participation.

Members may request to be assessed in any or all the following disciplines, but their level may not necessarily be the same in each discipline:

**Dressage**  
**Show jumping**  
**Combined Training**  
**Horse Trials (Eventing)**  
**Showing**  
**Navigation Rides**  
**3PE**

The following levels shall be allocated:

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Advanced</b> | (most difficult - for dressage & show jumping only) |
| <b>Level 1</b>  | (most difficult for all other disciplines)          |
| <b>Level 2</b>  |   |
| <b>Level 3</b>  | (Intermediate)                                      |
| <b>Level 4</b>  |   |
| <b>Level 5</b>  | (Least difficult)                                   |

Level Assessment is recorded on 'performance cards' which are required if you wish to compete in 'official' HRCav events.

A rider who progresses to a higher level in any discipline on any horse is required to ensure that their assessments in other disciplines or on other horses still comply with Level Assessment rules.

For details on Level Assessment, please contact [Janelle Miller](#)

For upcoming official events visit [www.hrcav.com.au](http://www.hrcav.com.au) and search for their calendar. You may also like to visit to visit [www.eventsecretary.com](http://www.eventsecretary.com), [www.horsecomps.com](http://www.horsecomps.com) or [www.ponyclubvic.org.au](http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au) to find unofficial dressage and jumping events that take 'open' riders.



## Club Competitions

It is an expectation that members will provide assistance in running club events and competitions, as these events form the bulk of the club's fundraising activities.

To this end it is a condition you agree to when joining SARC that each member provides assistance in at least two events/working bees run by the club. Support from every member ensures that the workload is spread evenly and that we are united as a club.

### Club "Mini Comps"

To allow members to familiarise themselves with the process of competition – entries, times, bridle numbers, protocols, correct attire etc., SARC runs a mini competition four times a year (during the rally). Watch the Facebook page for details of when the next competition is scheduled. Points are accumulated and an overall winner is determined at the end of the year.

## Further Information

If you need any further information or clarification, please don't hesitate to contact a committee member who will help you or point you in the right direction. If you need advice on local horse services or any other horse related advice try posting your query on our SARC Facebook page.

**NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE TAKEN BY THE CLUB FOR ANY INJURIES INCURRED AT ANY TIME WHILST ON THE GROUNDS**

Further information can also be found on the [SARC Website](#).

Smythesdale is a very friendly club with many members who enjoy competing in activities ranging from dressage and eventing to navigation and endurance riding. We hope you enjoy your time with us so please don't be afraid to make yourself known and get involved it's a great way to meet new likeminded people!  
***'Welcome!'***



## [SARC Rules](#)

Please click on above link to access the SARC Rules. These are based on the Model Rules as provided by Consumer Affairs Victoria.

## **Committee Members**

### **President:**

Janelle Miller

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### **Treasurer:**

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### **Rally Coordinator:**

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Alex Rousset

### **Social Media/Website**

Isie Rhodes

### **Committee**

Annieka Paridaen, Nola Poulter, Megan O'Rourke, Jessie Warren, Isie Rhodes, Anna Paxton, Alex Rousset

