



APRIL 2010



WIRRAGULLA
POLO CLUB DUNGOB

NEWSLETTER

From the Presidents' Desk

Picnic Polo October, 2010

Thank you for your support to polo and specifically to Wirragulla Polo Club over the past year, whether it be as a sponsor, following tournaments or giving the game a go for yourself.

The encouraging news is the growth in interest in polo as evidenced by the successful staging of the first Wine Country Polo carnival at Lovedale in September 2009 and the growth in our own club. We have gone from four playing members in 2007 to nine in 2010, a growth of over 100%! and our list of members increased each year.

The annual tournament last October was enjoyed by spectators and players and special thanks to the Committee, members and friends who contributed their time and skills. Their efforts ensured that the polo was of a high standard and the facilities, bar, catering and parking ran efficiently.

In 2009 we welcomed a new major sponsor, *Pryde's EasiFeed* and not only were Peter and Sharon Pryde present at their display on both days, they have generously offered their companies' sponsorship for 2010. The tournament will be promoted as the *Pryde's EasiFeed Hunter Polo Challenge 2010*. Please support our sponsors whenever possible as they are an integral part of the tournament.

On behalf of the Committee I would like

to thank the following sponsors for their support and we hope to see them in 2010, Barrington Veterinary Group, Addison Partners, Maitland Mutual, Kohnkes' Own, Tabbil Forest Design and wine sponsors Tatler Wines, Hungerford Hill, Sandalyn and Ballabourneen.

Thanks are also due to the companies who generously donated prizes for the raffle which was drawn at the end of the Sundays' play – Peppers Guest House Hunter Valley, Renee Coppin International, Peters of Kensington, Cypress Lakes Golf and Country Club Pokolbin, Peppertree Wines, Tar10, Falabella Collections and Cangon Stud.

The popular dinner on Saturday night saw the introduction of a Calcutta auction of the teams in Sundays' finals. Peter Dillon as the



auctioneer used his skills to get the crowd excited with bids in all directions and the winning bidders looking forward to the games next day with added interest.

A total of ten teams played over the weekend in good conditions before the threatening low clouds and poor visibility arrived just prior to the prizegiving. Shelter was found under the nearby Pryde's EasiFeed marquee where the winners received their trophies as the rain came down. Winners were –



A Grade Finals, Mackay Cup

Bayview 7 (Alec White, Jock Mackay, Nacho Gonzalez, Bobby Hannon), defeated The Classic Safari Company 5 ½ (Julie McIntosh, Ed Matties, Richard Doolin, Earl Herbert).

B Grade Final, Alison Cup

Scone B 4 (James Simson, Alan Stafford, David Haydon, Earl Herbeert), defeated Wirragulla C 2 (Victoria Roscoe, Melissa McCarthy, Scott McCreery, Anthony Garcia).

C Grade Final Skene Cup

Scone C 9 ½ (Jack McCullagh, Rob Davies, David Ross, Anto White) defeated Wirragulla D, 3. (Royston Murphy, Stevie Murphy, Katie Edmonds, Jock Mackay).

The Club again supported the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service and was able to make a worthwhile donation following the Tournament. We were honoured to have as our guest Richard Jones the CEO of the Westpac Rescue Helicopter Service at the dinner when he spoke about the demands of running this organisation and their appreciation of the Clubs' continued support.

Unfortunately the polo community recently lost one of its real leaders after James Ashton succumbed to injuries received playing polo in Thailand. He was visiting Asian nations as part of his role as President of the Federation of International Polo. His contribution to polo in Australia and the encouragement he gave will be sadly missed.

A reminder that the Annual General Meeting of the Wirragulla Polo Club Inc. Will be held on April 23, at the Dungog RSL Club at 6.00pm.

Jim Martin, President



Wirragulla Players Feature at Timor Polo, November 2009

Holding its first tournament for a few years, Timor attracted a good role up of teams including Garangula from southern NSW.

Wirragulla convincingly won the B grade with Jock Mackay, Martin Gostelow, Catriona and Royston Murphy defeating some strong opposition. The Wirragulla A team were not so fortunate. Scott McCreerys' horse "Kirby" won the best playing pony on the first weekend and on the following weekend the most improved player was Catriona Murphy, Jocks' sister.

More Highlights from 2009

Quirindi Polo – Beau Blundell played, however his team were defeated in the finals.

Scone Spring League – Scott McCreery featured in the team that won and Andrew Badgery with Beau Blundell were in the team that won the runners up cup.

Scone Polo Tournament – Wirragulla won the B grade 8 goal game playing Jaime

Mackay, Jock Mackay, Beau Blundell and Scott McCreery.

Ellerston Low Goal – playing for various teams were; Beau Blundell, Andrew Badgery and Scott McCreery who played for the team that won.

Wine Country Polo Carnival, September 6, 2009

Working in association with Wirragulla Polo Club this inaugural event was held at the Tatler Vineyard on a perfect spring day. The local committee had facilities well in place with a good crowd in attendance who saw exciting, three aside polo on this new untried ground. Teams were playing under the names of vineyard sponsors – Ballabourneen; Scott McCreery, Peter Haydon, Richard Doolin. Tatler Wines; Beau Blundell, Jaime Mackay, Earl Herbert. Sandyln Estate; Andrew Badgery, Adam Burchert, Hamish McGregor and Hungerford Hill; Alex Warner, Sam Gunn, Ed Archibald. The finals went to Tatler 3 goals defeating Hungerford Hill 1 goal.

Following the success of the first event the committee is now working on the 2010 carnival on Saturday, September 4.



"Club" Polo Day at Wirragulla

A club day will be held at Wirragulla ground on May 30th for players to participate in chukkas and to encourage others who might want to try polo for the first time under the guidance of experienced players. This is not a competitive day so if you know of anyone who might be interested, bring them along. Members and friends are encouraged to bring a picnic and enjoy a relaxed day at this special location. Enquiries to Beau Blundell, 0411 413 741 or beaublundell@bigpond.com

Playing Members, Improved Goal Rankings

The number of members who regularly compete continues to grow and it is pleasing to see their support for the Club and their enthusiasm for the game. The 2010 goal ratings are –

Jock Mackay	5
Jaime Mackay	2
Angus Scott	2
Beau Blundell	1
Scott McCreery	1
Andrew Badgery	1
Steve Wildman	1
Martin Gostelow	-1
Royston Murphy	-1
Catriona Murphy	-2

Diary dates for 2010

- 2010 Annual General Meeting This will be held at 6.00pm on April 23, at the Dungog RSL.
- Wirragulla "Club" day, May 30.
- Wine Country Polo, Sept 4 Saturday, Lovedale.
- **Wirragulla Polo Annual Tournament Oct 23 / 24**

For all information on polo you can visit our website: www.wirragullapoloclub.com
NSW Polo Assn. website: www.australianpolo.com.au

Wirragulla Polo Club – Annual Subscriptions 2010

Membership subscriptions are due and payable by July 31st, 2010. Please attach this section with your cheque payable to Wirragulla Polo Club and post to: Wirragulla Polo Club c/- PO Box 15, East Gresford NSW 2311

Membership 2010 \$77.00 (incl. GST) per couple or \$38.50 (incl. GST) per person

Name _____

Address _____

Town/Suburb _____ Postcode _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

Non-playing members of the club receive:

- Complimentary passes to both days of the club's Annual Tournament and free parking. Also free admissions to any other club events held during the year. Includes Wirragulla Wine Country Polo, Sept. 4.
- Periodic newsletters each year updating members of Wirragulla Club team results and other Polo happenings.
- \$11.50 of each Membership Subscription goes to supporting the club's insurance premium as required by the NSW Polo Association's insurance underwriter. Your subscription will therefore help materially in enabling Wirragulla to hold its Tournaments and encourage young players.