

# MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S CHALLENGE

## OFFICIAL RULE BOOK

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## WELCOME

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Welcome to all our new and returning Mountain Cattlemen's Challenge entrants. The Committee has worked hard to prepare an enjoyable and fair challenge for all competitors that draws on the riding and horsemanship skills displayed by mountain cattlemen and that fits with the space and terrain at our venue. As you are aware, there have been some changes in the few years to our event format. Where possible, we have noted these in the following way: CHANGE IN EVENT STRUCTURE. Please look for this throughout the Rule Book so that you can familiarise yourself with changes prior to the weekend.

The Mountain Cattlemen's Challenge will have categories for Open, Ladies, Juniors and a special class for our CattleKids and Poddies. There will be a separate rule book produced for Cattlekids and Poddies. There will also be a stand alone Challenge called the Stockman's. The Committee wishes everyone the best of luck throughout the weekend. We hope you all have a safe and enjoyable time.

### Winners Open Cattlemen's Challenge

2023	Brett Staines
2022	David Mitchell
2019	Daryl Baines
2018	Troy Nicholls
2017	Christopher Connley
2016	Brett Lancaster
2015	Brett Lancaster
2014	Christopher Connley
2013	Christopher Connley
2012	Christopher Connley
2011	Troy Nicholls
2010	Neil Waite
2009	Neil Waite
2008	Lincoln Adams
2007	Lincoln Adams
2006	Lincoln Adams
2005	Steven Boulton
2004	
2003	
2002	
2001	
2000	Rick Hodge
1999	Travis Kelly
1998	Rick Hodge
1997	Rick Hodge
1996	Tim Faithfull
1995	Tim Faithfull
1994	Ken Connley
1993	Peter Faithfull
1992	Chris Stoney
1991	Chris Stoney
1990	Peter Faithfull
1989	Chris Stoney
1988	Ken Connley
1987	TBC
1986	TBC
1985	Ken Connley
1984	Ken Connley
1983	Ken Connley

### Winners Junior Cattlemen's Challenge

2023	Emily Phegan
2022	Billy Phegan
2019	Katie Faithfull
2018	Josie Elliot
2017	Mikayla Semmens
2016	Kelsie Lupsom
2015	Kelsie Lupsom
2014	Tahnee Olsson
2013	Tom Ford
2012	Rose Wellesley
2011	Jye Hodgkins
2010	Marika Angrove
2009	Joanne Stevens
2008	Christopher Connley
2007	Christopher Connley
2006	Matt Maliki
2005	Matt Maliki
2004	
2003	
2002	Corey Ferrari
2001	Brooke Dobson
2000	
1999	Adam McCormack
1998	Melissa Connley
1997	Luke Mitchell
1996	Luke Mitchell
1995	Derek Faithfull
1994	Tim Faithfull
1993	Tim Faithfull
1992	Tim Faithfull, Wayne Lovick
1991	Tarina Connley

### Winners Ladies Cattlemen's Challenge

2023	Hayley Hinton
2022	Chloe Mitchell
2019	Hayley Hinton
2018	Shea Reynolds
2017	Carrie Jones

### Winner Cattlekids' Challenge

2022	Hughie Anderson
2019	Billy Phegan
2018	Sarah Faithfull



# MCAV CATTLEMEN'S CHALLENGE EVENT OVERVIEW

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## Preliminary Events

### Cattlemen's Mounted Whipcrack

Senior riders must attempt to crack whip targets at a canter, junior riders must attempt to crack targets at a trot. Points based on accuracy, time and horsemanship.

Cattle Handling - This event is run in a similar style to a working cow horse event, with each competitor given a single beast which they will be required to work in an arena. Course details will be provided in the riders briefing.

Obstacle Course – competitors must negotiate a course with different obstacles designed to test both rider and horse. Competitors may have to complete sections of the course bareback. Points based on accuracy, negotiation of course and time. There will be a maximum time applied.

Dry Work Pattern – Dry work pattern that will include, but is not limited to, roll backs, lead changes and circle work. All entrants will be emailed the pattern before the event.

## Final Event

Mountain Cattlemen's Challenge final – The final event for Open and Ladies competitors will see the best placed riders compete in two events – a time trial and a brumby catch. Junior riders will only compete in a time trial.



*Daryl Baines  
2022 Mountain Cattlemen's Cup*

## VET & GEAR CHECK

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**Event Manager:** Jack McCormack 0409 505 885 | **Vet:** Delatite Veterinary SERVICES



## Gear check

Judges are entitled to disqualify any competitor or direct them to replace any gear deemed to be unsafe or unsuitable.

- Horse to be presented to the gear check judge fully saddled including bridle and breastplate.
- Rider to wear Australian Standard helmet (see below), vest (optional), stock whip, oilskin
- All gear must be in good, safe working order and must reflect the spirit of the Mountain Cattlemen.
- Gear will be checked on the appropriateness of use in mountain bush riding.
- All horses must have a breastplate fitted for the duration of the event.
- All riders must fasten a full-length oilskin to their saddle for the duration of the event (excluding any bareback components in the obstacle course or unless otherwise specified by the judge on the day). Alternatively you may wear your oilskin.
- All riders must have fastened to their gear a leather stockwhip for the duration of the event unless required to be used eg in the whipcrack or unless otherwise specified by the judge on the day.
- Horses, saddles and breastplates presented during the Vet and Gear Check will be marked and the same gear must be used in all subsequent events over the course of the event (including the final event).
- All competitors must have 2 points of contact to hold the saddle secure (girth and surcingles in addition to the breastplate. Back girth will not be accepted). Fender saddles are acceptable with a single point of contact.
- Standing martingales and/or tiedowns **must not be used** at any time.
- Helmets must comply with current Equestrian Australia standards and must not have been in an accident. Helmets must fit the rider correctly. Approved numbers:
  - ✓ Current Australian standard AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked.
  - ✓ New Australian standard ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked.
  - ✓ Current American standard ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked.
  - ✓ Current American standard SNELL E2001.
  - ✓ Current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked.
  - ✓ Interim European Standard VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark.

## Dress code

- Approved smooth soled riding boots must be worn.
- Collared shirt with long sleeves and appropriate riding trousers.
- All riders must wear an Equestrian Australia Approved helmet at all times whilst mounted.

## Vet check – health and soundness of horse

- All horses must be free of any substance or drug that affects performance. The Committee reserves the right to test.
- Present unsaddled horse for vet check and standing heart rate measurement.
- Horses are to be fit and sound (eg not lame, girth-galled or saddle sore etc).
- The horse must be able to be led at a trot to the satisfaction of the Veterinary Practitioner, otherwise it will be disqualified.
- Should a horse be vetted out before the competition commences, the competitor may use a spare horse as long as it is presented to the vet for inspection prior to the completion of the Vet and Gear Check.
- Once the competition begins, the same horse must be used for all phases of the event.
- Any horse/s found to have a contagious disease will be subject to the rules of quarantine or removal from the grounds as determined by the veterinary practitioner.
- The Committee may require a vet check at the conclusion of any/all events if it is deemed necessary, including the Final.



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*Brett Lancaster  
2022  
Cattlemen's Challenge*

## Cattle Handling

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### Requirements

Competitors will be allowed a set time to complete the pattern.

Patterns will be provided in the riders briefing pack.

Competitors are allowed to use a stockwhip to help guide their cow, but are not permitted to strike the animal.

Should a competitor not finish before time, all points will count until the time mark.

Judges can deem a beast "lost". This is signalled by the judge cracking a whip. No further course may be completed after this point.

Horse and rider are required to control the movements of a cow down the arena fence and in the centre of the arena.



*Billy  
Phegan,  
2022 Cattlemen's Challenge*

## OBSTACLE COURSE

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### Requirements

- Competitors are required to complete a set obstacle course designed to test both rider and horse, within a maximum time to be advised at event briefing.
- Open and Ladies must complete the course riding bareback. Juniors are able to use a saddle.
- Time commences when you indicate to the judge that you are ready to start or the judge indicates it is time to begin
- Should two competitors receive the same score based on obstacles alone, the rider with the fastest course time will be announced the winner of the Obstacle Course.
- All riders must attempt each obstacle. If unsuccessful in the first try, riders have 1 further attempt to correctly complete that obstacle.
- Riders must attempt all obstacles at least once.
- Should a rider not complete an obstacle correctly and not attempt the obstacle again, the rider will receive no further points for that obstacle
- Riders must complete the course by themselves with no outside input. Juniors, Cattlekids and Poddies are excluded from this rule.
- All riders will be walked through the course prior to their group commencing the course.
- Should a rider not complete the course within the maximum time, the score will be taken from points accrued to that point
- Should a rider fall whilst completing the course, they may re-mount and continue but will incur an -20 point penalty.
- Should a rider fall and the rider choose to not re-mount, point will be counted up until the fall.

## Points

Scoring	Maximum points awarded per obstacle correctly completed
Obstacles	1 <sup>st</sup> attempt – 10
	2 <sup>nd</sup> attempt – 5
Max possible points per course	



*Hayley Hinton, 2022 Cattlemen's Challenge*

## CATTLEMEN'S MOUNTED WHIPCRACK

*Event Manager: TBC*

### Requirements

- Open and Lady riders are to ride the course at a canter (minimum).
- Junior riders are to ride the course at a trot (minimum).
- Competitors must attempt to cleanly cut a set number of targets with a forward style cattlemen's crack. Whip must crack to achieve the points for that target.
- Only one attempt is permitted for each target.
- Competitors are not permitted to stop to attempt a target.
- Should a rider fall whilst completing the course, they must **not** re-mount and continue.
- Should a rider fall, all points will count up until the fall.
- Riders are not permitted to ride outside of the designated course boundary to cut or negotiate a target or obstacle.
- Should two riders achieve the same total score, the fastest time on the course will be announced the winner of the Cattlemen's Mounted Whipcrack.

### Mounted freestyle

- Competitors are to conduct a mandatory 30 seconds freestyle on their horse.
- Competitors may use two whips.

Freestyle is to be completed after the Whipcrack Course.

Scoring	Max points possible
Targets	
Freestyle	
<b>Max possible points per course</b>	

## MOUNTAIN CATTLEMEN'S CHALLENGE FINAL

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### Requirements

- All Top 6 Open, Top 6 Lady and Top 6 Junior riders will walk the final course prior to the event being run.
- All Top 6 Open, Top 6 Lady and Top 6 Junior riders will carry their preliminary events scores forward into the Final.
- The highest scoring rider (from the 4 preliminary events and points combined) will be announced the Mountain Cattlemen's Challenge Overall Winner in each category (Open, Ladies & Junior).
- All riders must be in control of their horse and demonstrate good horsemanship at all times whilst on course.
- If at any stage a rider falls from their horse, they are permitted to remount and continue if they wish.

### Riders

1. All adult riders competing in the Open or Ladies Cup must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
2. Any rider under the influence of drugs or alcohol must not, and will not, be permitted to take part in the event.
3. A rider must not ride dangerously, compromise the welfare of a horse or another competitor.
4. Any rider who has a fall from a horse whilst in warm up or competing must have a medical examination and be declared fit to ride by the designated first aid officer before riding in any further events during the weekend. The only exception to this is those that fall and land on their feet or fall during an event an opt to continue.
5. All riders must treat the animals they interact with humanely and obtain prompt veterinary assistance if a horse or any other animal they are in charge of becomes ill or injured.

### Gear

All gear, including helmets, will be inspected at the compulsory Vet and Gear Check prior to commencement of the event and must be in good repair, properly fitted and must not cause discomfort or injury to the horse. See Gear Check section.

In addition:

1. All horses that are shod must have correctly fitting shoes. Shoes must not be worn that have nails protruding or clenches risen. Toe grabs must not be used.
2. All bandages must be stitched.
3. Spurs are permitted.
4. Riders must have a stockwhip secured at all times during all phases of the event (cattle handling, obstacle course, whipcrack, dry work and final) and are permitted to use it when required or as



directed with good horsemanship as a guideline. Riders may elect to hand carry their whip but it is not compulsory.

5. Riding crops are not permitted at any time.

### Other

1. All competitors must hold a current Ambulance Membership cover and must have paid for their event in full prior to commencing competition.
2. All competitors must indicate they have read and accept the Acceptance of Risk on the online Entry Form. This is a form to be downloaded and signed by a parent or guardian if the competitor is under the age of 18.
3. Entries will be taken from July 1. Entries are accepted on a first in best dressed system, with a rider considered accepted when all forms have been signed and returned to the MCAV and all fees paid.
4. All competitors are to treat Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria Committee Members, Horse Event Coordinators, Judges, Stewards, Volunteers or any single person associated with the coordination of the event with respect at all times.

### Prizes

There will be a sash presented to the winner in all Cattlemen's Cup sections – obstacles, whip crack, cattle, drywork and the Final.



*Chloe Mitchell, 2022 Cattlemen's Challenge*

## COMPETITION RULES

Any Competitor or Member using electronic technology to defame the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria, the Annual Get Together, Cattlemen's Cup, Volunteers, Staff, Stewards, Judges or other Competitors will be disqualified from the Mountain Cattlemen's Cup Challenge and this will affect future inclusion in the event.

The Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria endeavour to hold a fair and enjoyable event for all competitors; however it is understood that changes may be made to the event at the last minute to ensure the riders and competing horses' safety. All competitors acknowledge when they enter the event that they will accept **any and all** changes and decisions made by the MCAV or MCAV Staff, Volunteers, Vets, Stewards or Judges.

All competitors will abide by the following Competition Rules:

1. The event will be run over three days including Vet and Gear Check on Friday.
2. The Committee reserves the right to make changes to the program in the event of extreme circumstances altering ride times, durations and/ or cancelling event sections. No refund will be given.
3. Entries will be taken from June 17.
4. Riders must accept any decision made on the appropriateness/fitness of a horse to compete by the Event Veterinary Practitioner.
5. Open and Lady riders must be 18 years and older on the day of the event commencing. Junior riders must be between the ages of 14 and 17 the day of the event commencing. The parent or legal guardian must sign the Acceptance of Risk for the Junior rider to be eligible to participate in the event.
6. All Open, Lady and Junior competitors must wear an Equestrian Australia Approved Helmet at all times whilst mounted. See Gear Check.
7. Each competitor is permitted one and the same horse for the duration of the event.
8. Riders must be experienced and accomplished competitive riders with an appropriately trained horse capable of undertaking the challenging conditions of this event. Chief judges of each of the pre-race stages, in consultation with Horse Committee, have the authority to eliminate any rider from competing in the race if they feel that the skill of horse and rider together is not at standard and would be potentially unsafe.
9. Riders must conduct themselves in a fair and friendly manner towards all Staff, Volunteers, Judges, Vets, Stewards and other Competitors at all times.
10. Riders must accept any and all changes made to the event as necessary as set out by the MCAV Cattlemen's Challenge organisers. Riders must accept any decision made in regards to scores and rules/regulations by the Judge and/or Stewards of the MCAV Cattlemen's Challenge.
11. Should a rider's horse become ill or injured, competitors must seek the necessary veterinary assistance as soon as reasonably possible. Payment of the necessary veterinary services is the rider's/horse owner's responsibility.
12. Any animal deemed unfit or at risk by the MCAV Cattlemen's Challenge event organisers, or the MCAV Veterinary Practitioner will not be permitted to continue in the competition. All decisions are final and no competitor is permitted to enter into any discussion once a decision has been made.
13. Mistreatment or cruelty to any animal in the competitor or another's care will result in the person/s responsible being asked to leave the event immediately and not invited to attend the event again. Other penalties may include: disqualification, loss of points and/ or any prize money awarded.
14. All Open and Lady Cattlemen's Cup riders enter with the intention of riding in the Open or Lady Final should they progress through to the Top 6 Open or Top 6 Ladies.
15. All Junior Cattlemen's Cup riders enter with the intention of riding in the Junior Final should they progress through to the Top 6 Juniors.
16. All riders will be notified of their acceptance into the Cattlemen's Challenge. Any rider put on a waiting list will also be notified. Anyone not accepted will receive a full refund.
17. All competitors must have current Ambulance Cover to ride in the Mountain Cattlemen's Challenge.
18. All competitors must register at the Riders Registration which takes place before the event commences at the Event Secretary's Office.
19. All competitors must attend the Riders Briefing which takes place on Friday evening. Times will be confirmed.
20. Any Open, Lady or Junior rider who elects not to ride in the final event must notify the Horse Event Organisers as soon as practically possible after the Top 6 Open, Top 6 Lady and Top 6 Junior announcement on Saturday night.
21. All riders enter at their own risk with no responsibility accepted by the Mountain Cattlemen's Association of Victoria for riders, livestock or property.
22. Any and all decisions made by the Judges, Vets, MCAV Committee or Horse Event Organisers are final and no discussion will be entered into.
23. If a rider wishes to lodge an event/scoring/judging review, they must attend the Event Secretary tent and fill in the appropriate form within one hour of scores being released. Any rider who wishes to lodge a formal complaint will be charged a \$100 fee. If the complaint is deemed not valid 40 points will be deducted from the riders score. Should the Committee find that the dispute is genuine and in favour of the disputing rider, the fee will be refunded.
24. Any rider who lodges a complaint under rule section 23 will have their complaint reviewed by an independent panel not associated with the running of the horse events.

25. Any rider or support person (family member, friend or associate) found interfering with judging, scores, event equipment, livestock or other competitors will be asked to leave the event immediately and will forfeit any prize/s or points awarded.
26. The MCAV reserves the right to vet check any horse post event. If the horse is found to be unduly stressed by the veterinary officer on the day, that horse will be eliminated.
27. In the event of a tie for first place in the Open, Ladies or Junior Cattlemen's Challenge, the winners will toss for prizes and the prize money will be split between the two competitors.
28. Each of the 4 preliminary events will be judged individually with the Top 6 highest scoring Open, Top 6 Lady and Top 6 Junior riders going forward into the Open, Ladies and Junior Mountain Cattlemen's Challenge Final held on Sunday.
29. Presentation of Finals prizes will take place after the final event.
30. Scores awarded for each of the preliminary events will be posted as soon as possible after completion of that event.
31. No individual event scoring will be released to riders except at the event organisers discretion.
32. Consumption of alcohol/drugs and smoking is not permitted whilst competing or during the presentation of awards.
33. A lady aged 18 years or older may elect to enter into either the Open or the Ladies challenge, however is not permitted to change categories during the event regardless of what position they may hold in the overall standings.
34. Refunds /scratchings - Scratching will incur a 20% administration fee. Any scratching after October 15 will not receive a refund unless accompanied by a vet or doctor's certificate or at the MCAV's discretion.
35. Criteria for acceptance. All entries must be done online. This can be done via the website [www.mcav.com.au](http://www.mcav.com.au). If you are having trouble, enlist help. You can also contact the MCAV office for assistance on 0407 520 309 or email [secretary@mcav.com.au](mailto:secretary@mcav.com.au).
36. Open Riders. Entries capped at 20, 5 emergencies. The MCAV reserves the right to include all 25 competitors in the Event. The top 6 placed riders will be eligible for the Final. If anyone withdraws, the next qualified person may replace.
37. Age for Junior Category. Junior riders must be 14 and under 18 on the day of competition. Total entries capped at 20. The MCAV reserves the right to include all 25 competitors in the Event. The top 6 placed riders will be eligible for the Final. If anyone withdraws, the next qualified person may replace.
38. Ladies competitors are 18 and over on the day of competition. Total entries capped at 20. The MCAV reserves the right to include all 25 competitors in the Event. The top 6 placed riders will be eligible for the Final. If anyone withdraws, the next qualified person may replace.

## MCAV HORSE EVENTS TEAM

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Vet and Gear Check	MCAV Horse Committee
Horse event coordinator	Travis Wright
Event Coordinator	Tania Coleman
Vet	Delatite Veterinary Services

## MAJOR SPONSORS

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## FURTHER INFORMATION:

For any further information, to have your questions answered or for problems please contact either the MCAV office via email at [secretary@mcav.com.au](mailto:secretary@mcav.com.au) or on 0407 520 309, or the horse events Co-Ordinator Travis Wright 0459 371 541.