



Harness Driver Diary

Chris Lang Junior – Diary

Chris Lang Jnr has always had harness racing in his blood, with his father, uncles & grandparents all involved in the industry. Now he is one of Victoria's leading Concession drivers. Chris left school at 17 after 1st term of his year 12 to start work as a harness driver on his family property. Chris undertook a Certificate III in Racing traineeship with his father and studied his qualification on the internet through the Harness Racing Training Centre in Bendigo.

Now aged 23, Chris has progressed at a great rate and consequently he now gets numerous drives from other trainers as well as driving for his father. Like all Victorian Harness Drivers, Chris receives a payment of \$55 per drive. Chris estimates about 65% of his drives come from his family stables. During the day Chris watches nearly all the Victorian Harness races live- this assists him to know the speed & form of horses he will come up against in the future.



Here is his diary for the week starting 17/3/09



Tuesday 17/3

I got to the stables at 6.30am where I help organize the horses for trackwork. Currently we have 28 horses in work & nearly all of our horses are trained out of the paddock. Like most mornings, I get the gear together & work 10 horses, then I assist in grooming, feeding & watering. Usually we finish up around 11.30-12. I then prepared my race gear for a horse to take to Kilmore tonight. The drive to Kilmore usually takes about 1 hour each way & we left home at 4.15 & returned home at 9.30. Fortunately it was a good night as my only drive was a winner!

Name of Horse	Placing	5% of Prize money
Kyvalley Mac	1 st	\$168

Wednesday 18/3

Like most mornings, I got the gear together & worked 10 horses, then I assisted with grooming, feeding & watering.

Drove to Shepparton for 3 drives & didn't have much luck.

Name of Horse	Placing	5% of Prize money
Loveyoulongtime	8 th	Nil
Last One Vance	7 th	Nil
Sun Samurai	5 th	\$6

Thursday 19/3

I got out of bed at 6.30 & started working the horses. I didn't have a drive today, but I got a call at 11am from a trainer to say the original driver he booked was ill & he wanted me to drive tonight, but it was in Mildura! Anyway I took the drive & jumped in the car & went to meet the trainer in Bendigo & he drove me to Mildura. The horse won, but it was a 10 hour round trip & I didn't get to bed until 4.30am!

Name of Horse	Placing	5% of Prize money
Parasite	1 st	\$675

Friday 20/3

Out of bed early & worked 10 horses, no drives during the day, but have 3 in Bendigo tonight

Name of Horse	Placing	5% of Prize money
Westwood Castleton	2 nd	\$38
Goforzoe	1 st	\$168
Ontopformee	4 th	\$13

Saturday 21/3

Out of bed at 6.30 & worked 10 horses. No racing during the day, but have one drive at Moonee Valley tonight. I left for Melbourne during the afternoon & went into the city for a while before heading to the track. My only drive at Moonee Valley didn't go according to plan & I couldn't get clear run. I drove back home to Nagambie around midnight.

Name of Horse	Placing	5% of Prize money
Battle Heights	11 th	Nil

Sunday 22/3

I get to sleep in a little today and start at 8am. I only worked the horses we have running today & it was very light, easy work for the horses, just to keep them alert. It's a big day for our stable as we have runners during the day at Cranbourne & two horses are running at night in Echuca- I am driving at both meetings. Because of the distance between the two venues, it is decided that fellow driver Greg Sugars & I would catch a light plane flown by harness driver & trainer John Nissen, who has a pilot's licence. Even though the journey in the end only took about 50 minutes by plane, I didn't arrive in time for one of my two drives.

I came home with the horses at about 10pm.

Name of Horse	Placing	5% of Prize money
Sunny Elegant	8 th	Nil
System Two	10 th	Nil
Kyvalley Mirage	4 th	\$15

Monday 23/3

Up early to work 10 horses and finished about 2pm, giving me the afternoon off & some time to myself to relax before getting stuck back into it all tomorrow.

For further information on a range of Racing careers, visit:-

www.agrifoodcareers.com.au

