

PCA News

Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

MARCH 2023

**National
Championships
Dates**

**Start coaching -
Foundation
Coach Webinars**

**Embedding
child-safe
practices at
your Club**

**WIN
a horse
book**

**Rugging
Quiz**

**Why Do We
Have a
Code of
Conduct?**



New Look for 2023 Nationals



KEY DATES

- **Entries Open: 26 June 2023**
- **Entries Close: 24 July 2023**
- **State Hubs: 16 - 25 Sept 2023**
- **Games (Benalla): 2-5 October 2023**
- **WA Nationals Perth: 2-5 October 2023**

Preliminary Notice:

The 2023 Nationals are being hosted by Pony Club WA. This will be a 'Hybrid' Event.

- Conducted from hubs within each state for relevant disciplines. Hubs nominally held from Saturday 16 September to Monday 25 September.
- States may choose to conduct a hub, or the entire team travels to WA, or a combination of both.
- The WA event will run from 2-5 October 2023.
- Riders coming to WA may use borrowed horses for all disciplines, subject to their state's relevant policies.



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

National Coach Accreditation Scheme

**Foundation Coach
Manual**



Foundation Coach Webinar

Join us as we work through
**Unit 2 - Coaching Pony Club riders
in the Foundation Coach Manual.**
Everyone welcome!

Tuesday 14th March

8pm NSW/VIC/TAS/ACT

7pm QLD

7.30pm SA

5pm WA

6.30pm NT

Zoom Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/FoundationCoachZoom>

[The first Foundation Coach introduction webinar is now online here](#)

* This is a series of five webinars to work through the Foundation Coach manual.



Cover photo

Congratulations to Frank and Fenwick Bit O'Sunshine (Sunny) from Woodlands Pony Club on winning the Highpoint at Rochester's 'Great Northern Show' (VIC) last month.

Off the back of a huge week after a stay in hospital due to a run in with a golf club, being treated for an infection and emergency surgery on his upper eyelid, Frank still wanted to compete - and compete he did, with his doctor's blessing and family's support.

Well done Frank!

Child Safeguarding in Sport Induction

WHAT IS THIS COURSE ABOUT?

The Child Safeguarding in Sport Induction course introduces you to the Child Safeguarding Policy. The Child Safeguarding Policy sets out obligations and proactive and preventative practices to:

- keep children (persons under the age of 18 years) safe from all forms of abuse, harm and neglect.
- create a safe and positive environment for children to participate in sport.

This course will assist you to understand and implement the Child Safeguarding Policy. By the end of this course you will be able to:

- understand what child safeguarding in sport is
- understand what the Child Safeguarding policy is, who it applies to and when
- recognise alleged breaches of the Child Safeguarding in Policy
- understand the role of Child Safe Practices in the Child Safeguarding Policy
- understand the recruitment and screening requirements of the Child Safeguarding Policy
- identify how to respond to alleged breaches of the Child Safeguarding Policy.

EMBEDDING CHILD-SAFE PRACTICES AT YOUR CLUB!

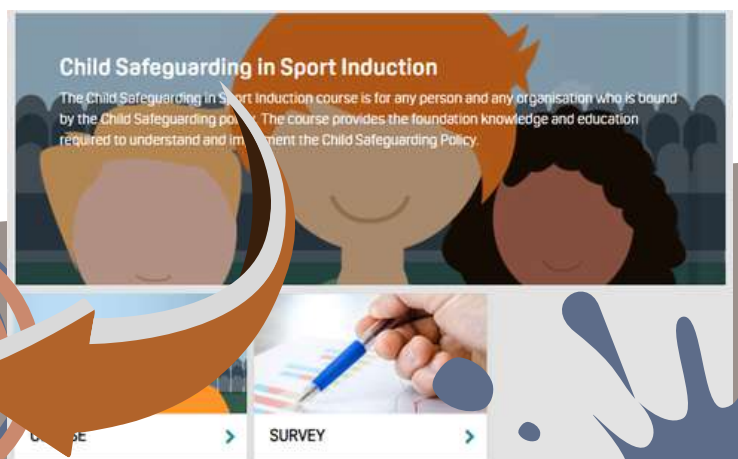
Child Safeguarding your club involves a combination of practices and processes. These are some practices to help create a child-safe environment.

- Committee members & coaches must be recorded on JustGo.
- Committee members & coaches must have a valid WWCC (Blue Card) recorded on JustGo
- Committee members & coaches must complete the Child Safeguarding in Sport Induction course and record attainment on JustGo*

**Mandatory for Committee Members and Coaches by 31 DECEMBER 2023*

NOTE: For some individuals, it may be a legal requirement to hold a valid WWCC.

CLICK HERE - Child Safeguarding in Sport Induction Course





Ride for Australia



International Dressage Competition

* You and your horse, entry via video

The Pony Club International Alliance Dressage Competition is now in its third year. Applications are open until the end of March.

<https://form.jotform.com/PonyClubAust/2023-pcia-dressage>

PCA is seeking to enter a team of 4 in each class.

Class 1	Training Level	(Preliminary) USDF Training Level Test 1 (2023) Riders 14 years and under* Judge - Canada
Class 2	First Level	(Novice) USDF First Level Test 1 (2023) Riders 18 years and under* Judge - Hong Kong
Class 3	Second Level	(Elementary) USDF Second Level Test 1 (2023) Riders 25 years and under* Judge - South Africa
Class 4	Third Level	(Medium) USDF Third Level Test 1 (2023) No age restriction Judge - United Kingdom
Class 5	Pas de Deux	Freestyle to Music (Pairs) USDF Pas de Deux Freestyle (2023) No age restriction Fancy dress optional Judge - USA
Class 6	Prix Caprilli	NZPCA Prix Caprilli Test No age restriction Judge - New Zealand



* Age as at January 1, 2023



Schedule

- 15th May: Submission of entries
- 15 – 30th May: Filming and video upload period
- 31st May – 9th June: Judging
- 11th June: Results announced
- 12th June – 19th June: Period for public queries
- 20th June: Results finalised

Reminder - other applications for international teams

Coach/manager for showjumping team travelling to France 16th – 31st July.

Applications closing 13th March 2023

<https://form.jotform.com/PonyClubAust/france-2023-coach-manager>



Coach and manager (two roles) for the International Mounted Games team

competing in Australia in November 2023. Closes 31st March

<https://form.jotform.com/PonyClubAust/imge-2023-coach-manager>



Pony Club is zooming!

In the West Australian town of Carnarvon, 900 kms north of Perth, members at the local Pony Club will soon have access to their monthly lessons via Zoom.

'Local' though, out here means the members could be 100-140kms away.

Carnarvon Horse and Pony Club will introduce remote learning this year.

The remote learning program is aimed at ensuring families that live on far away stations, or where riders are at boarding school, can still feel included.

(From an ABC News story)



Far-flung young riders can soon log onto Pony Club lessons via zoom

Carnarvon Pony Club will soon offer virtual lessons to young riders on remote stations, enhancing the child's safety and

Pony Club returns to the island

King Island that is!

Coach Karen Pearce spent a fantastic weekend in King Island instructing these very excited kids and adults. It was their first PC rally in two years and the smiles from the kids were priceless.

Can't wait to have more updates on their pony club adventures. Pony Club Tasmania says many thanks to Karen and all King Island PC members who made this weekend happen.



Horse Archery at Malanda

Malanda Pony Club members had a great time learning the basics of horse archery with HA Brian McCarthy recently. One rider managed to shoot two targets at a canter after her first training session!

[You can watch the action here:](#)



Read up on how to do Horse Archery, and all the contacts you need, on the PCA website - [Discipline of the Month Page \(Under Sports\)](#)

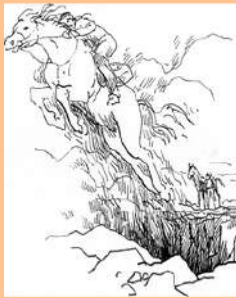


Book giveaway for young readers

PCA has several copies of a new book written and illustrated by Jennie Dodd to give away. Inspired by her granddaughters who live in WA, the novel is set in the Australian outback.

The book is also available through online book stores such as Booktopia and World of Books (WOB)

Back cover: 'Whilst riding in the Australian outback a chance encounter with creatures from a magic kingdom results in teenage sisters - Dakota and Chaney - attempting a perilous mission. The girls and their horses - Star and Galaxy - find themselves risking life and limb in two races. They embark on a race against time to save a fairy whose life hangs in the balance. The second race - the Annual National Endurance Championship- becomes a race for survival where losing is not an option.'



How to enter -

Just send us an email with your name, age and club and tell us in 25 words or less why you would like to win this book, to marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au by **Monday March 20.**

Isac Staley was the excited winner of the PCA Rider of the Year 12 years and Under for 2022. Here he is with his pony Myles and his gift box, and receiving his Pony Club Australia award from the president and president of the junior committee of Mornington Peninsula Pony Club. Well done, Isac.





Rugging Quiz



1

You should get your horse's winter rugs repaired:
a) In Winter b) In Summer c) On Christmas Day

2

You should brush mud off canvas winter rugs and wash cotton summer rugs
a) True b) False c) Wash all rugs in the house when no-one is looking

3

Which rug pictured here is a good fit? _____
Which rug is a bad fit? _____ Say why _____



Rug 1



Rug 2

4

When putting on a rug, which order do you do up the straps? Number 1-3
___ Front strap ___ Belly bands (if present) ___ Leg straps

5

Why is this rug sitting on the horse's back like this?



Answers on Page 11

Become a Gear Checker in 5 easy steps

Your club needs you! Have you been wanting a way to help out at your club?

Step 1 - Familiarise yourself with the PCA National gear rules. This can be found on the PCA website under policies [NATIONAL GEAR RULES - Pony Club Australia](#)

Step 2 - Download and read through the free gear check manual. This can be found under coach education on the PCA website [COACH EDUCATION - Pony Club Australia](#)

Step 3 - Find an assessor. If you are unsure of who is an assessor in your area ask you club, zone or state (assessors can be current Level 1 coaches)

Step 4 - Complete the online written test <https://form.jotform.com/PonyClubAust/gear-checker-accreditation>

Step 5 - Complete a practical gear check with your assessor

Once you have completed and passed your practical assessment your accreditation will be added to your credentials on JustGo.

There is also a gear checkers guide webinar that you can watch for extra info:
[Gear Checkers webinar Oct 2022 - YouTube](#)



How surveys are helping our members



We are interested in the wisdom and practical experience of our riders to help their saddle sisters to choose a good sports bra for riding.

Anonymous and 5 minutes of your time

<https://form.jotform.com/PonyClubAust/pca-sports-bra-survey>

In 2021, PCA surveyed boys to help gauge what they liked and didn't like about Pony Club.

Comment from Yandina Pony Club:

Late last year Pony Club Australia conducted a survey about how our female riders cope with their periods at rally/muster days and competitions.

Based on the results of that, we have put these measures in place:

1. We have approval for our riders to choose to wear black joddies/breeches instead of beige.

2. We had one of our fabulous members, Judy, create this Emergency Support Box (right) to go in our bathrooms! It contains pads, tampons, spare knickers, hand sanitizer and wipes - we love the special message too.

3. We have asked members to donate spare joddies in different sizes for members to use if needed as well.

4. We will have sanitary bins in each bathroom.

We encourage all clubs to ensure our young and mature ladies are well supported.

Period survey outcomes



[You can read the survey results here - thanks everyone for your responses.](#)

The Centre Page

Introducing new accredited riding centres to the Pony Club® family

Riding Centres out and about - 4 Mile Farm

As the new competition year opens for 2023, it has been wonderful to see some of our over 200 Accredited Riding Centre riders participating in Pony Club rally days and competitions.

Bouldercombe Pony Club in Queensland held their showjumping day last month and hosted two riders from local PCA Accredited Centre, **4 Mile Farm**. Sophie and Sophia had an incredible first competition out, both girls receiving multiple ribbons in their events. Bouldercombe also generously hosted Sophie at their following rally day, where she got to experience the comradery and friendship of their members.

A big congratulations to Nicky and Ben Dobson and her team at 4 Mile Farm, who prepared their riders so well for this event, ensuring they knew how to nominate, present themselves in uniform, walk the course and understand the ring and judge etiquette for the day.

Phoenix Acres Riding Ranch has also seen success for their riders competing in show jumping at their local Pony Club, showing just how important it is for those riders without ponies to be able to learn the ropes and be competent when beginning to compete.

Accredited Riding Centres are a great way to introduce beginner riders and new members to your club.

If you are a Pony Club or Riding Centre wanting to connect in your local area, please reach out to Sally Wiseman on 0409 596 796 who can help.



Top and right: Sophia; and left Sophie, enjoy their first competition on 4 Mile Farm horses.



Meet the Coach



Dianne Ould - Peel Metropolitan Horse and Pony Club, Western Australia

You could say that Dianne Ould, our Volunteer of the Year in 2023, has had a life long affiliation with Pony Club. She was given her first pony when she was 8 (now 65) and her parents started up a pony club in Enfield South Australia, which they kept going for about five years until they shifted to Hope Valley, where her father trained trotters and pacers. The ponies were sold as it was Di and her two sisters' job to exercise the harness horses.

After moving to Victoria, and then WA where the love for horses led to buying a commercial agistment centre, Dianne took out her standardbred and thoroughbred licences. She was the first woman to have a dual licence in WA and loved track work. She also then started coaching all aspects of riding and horsemastership.

Showjumping and eventing were her favourite disciplines and she successfully competed on her beautiful 17.1hh grey TB, Vanilla Ice. However she now loves to teach how important flatwork is for all disciplines. As an accredited Course Builder and Show Jump Judge, she still loves the discipline and being a Hickstead inspector gives her a cross country buzz.

Di remembers her very first coach at eight years old who taught her so much and made her a very correct rider. She loves watching riders develop both their riding skills and the fact that they build a community of lifelong friends around them. Her proudest moments are watching her riders do their very best and go from lead line to competing.

She finds it easy to connect with her young riders and lives by the motto that she will never 'ask you to do something I do not in my heart know you can do'. This has made it so easy for riders to give something a go that they normally would have said no to, and 'the smile on their faces when they do makes it the best job in the world'.

Her tip for new coaches is to always remember, everyone learns in different ways. If you give riders instructions and they do not understand them, it is your job to find another way of explaining what you are wanting of them.

In addition to her Coaching, Coach Educator and Judging credentials, Di is also an active member of the National Gear Committee and sits on the National Gear Exemption panel.

Thank you Di, for the incredible effort and years you have put into developing our young riders!



How do I add my credentials?

What ARE my credentials?

The selections at right are all types of credentials you can have on file, as riding members, supporters and officials.

Everything from horse registration to Working with Children Check to certificates gained.

Credentials that members can add themselves:

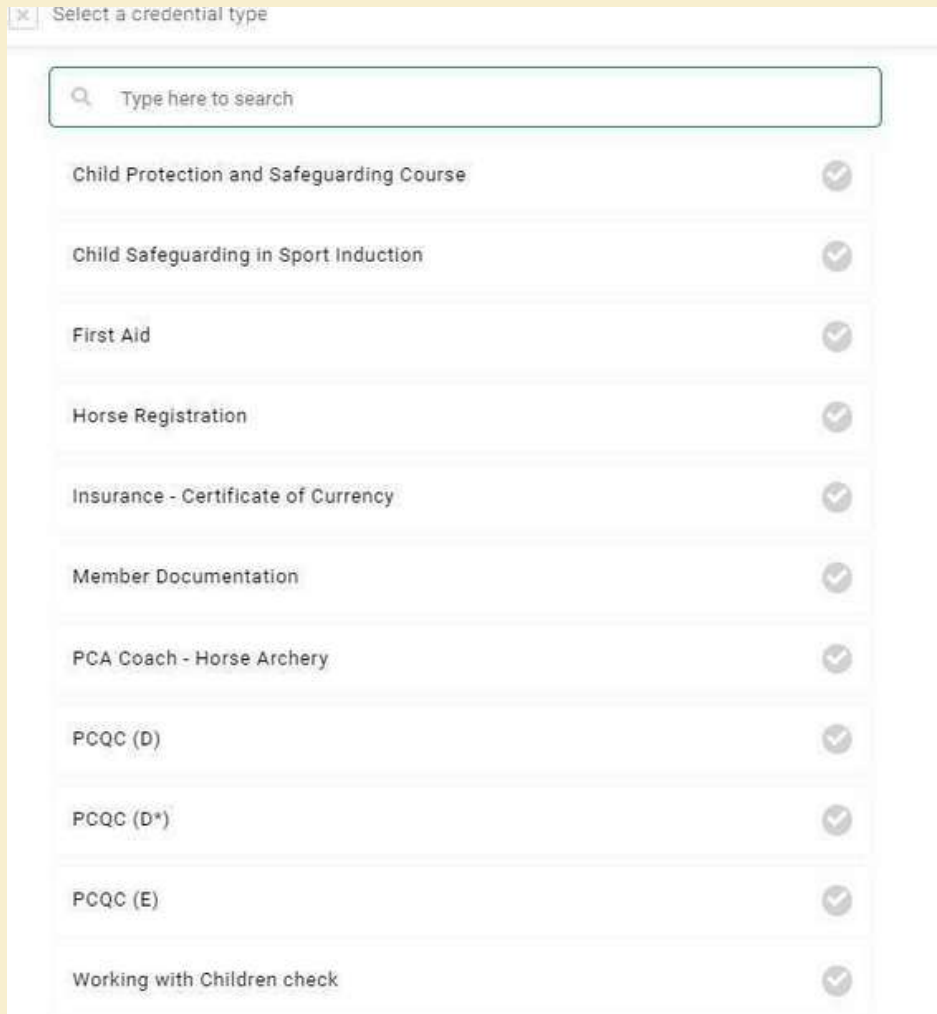
First Aid	WWCC
Horse Rego	Member Documents (generic)



Pony Club state offices approve all the credentials.

Please contact your state for any pending credentials.

For any other information or concerns, please contact support@ponyclubaustralia.com.au



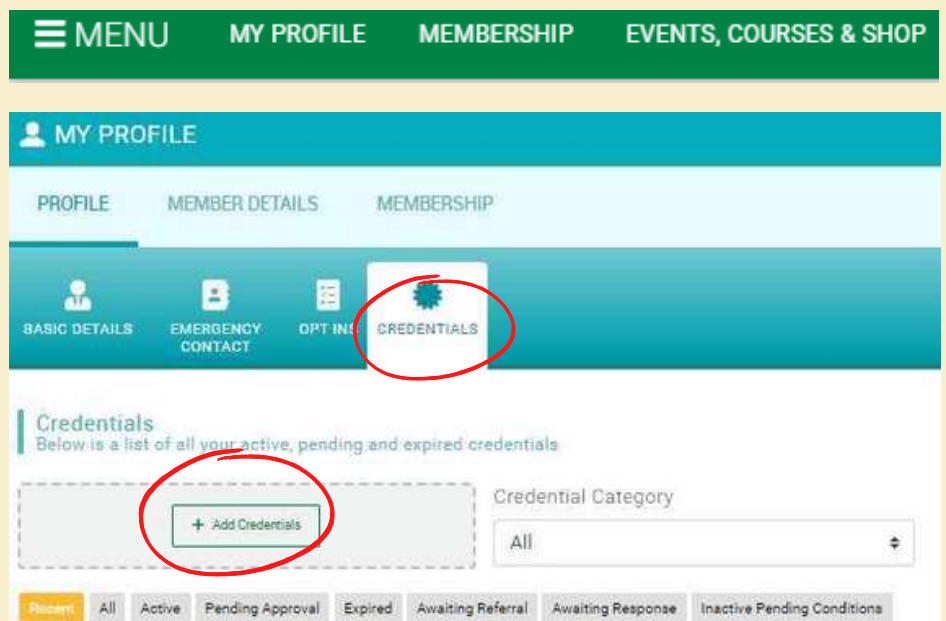
Step 1

Click on 'My Profile'

Step 2

Click on 'Credentials and then 'Add Credentials'

You can add multiple credentials



Quiz Answers (Page 7)

1. B.
2. True
3. Rug 2. (Rug 1 is too loose in the neck and too long in the body.)
4. 2,3,1 (ie Leg straps first)
5. Folded in thirds and placed on a nervous horse, then unfolded carefully.

INTEGRITY TALK



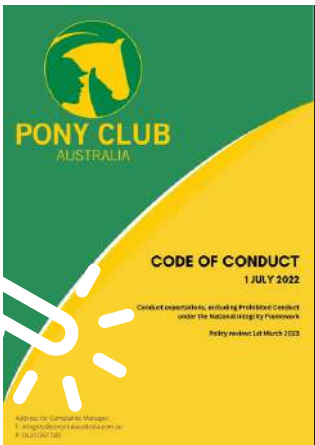
PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA



Suane Waugh,
PCA Integrity Manager
Integrity line: 0424 067 045

CHILD SAFEGUARDING CLUB PROGRAM

Watch out for our Child Safeguarding Club Program aimed to help clubs embed child safeguarding practices and processes at your club. The program will consist of monthly emails to help you align with the Child Safeguarding Policy and practices.



CODE OF CONDUCT

Why do we have a Code of Conduct?

- The Pony Club Australia Code of Conduct helps to define acceptable behaviours for members, coaches, officials, administrators, spectators or anyone who engages in Pony Club events and activities. The Code of Conduct aims to create a fun, safe and fair Pony Club environment.

When does the Code of Conduct apply?

- The Code of Conduct applies at all times when you are participating in or acting on behalf of Pony Club! This includes interacting with club committee members, coaches, event officials, Pony Club staff, contractors, zone representatives, board members or other members and includes behaviour on social media sites too!

What happens if I breach the Code of Conduct?

- Breaches of the Code of Conduct are managed under the Pony Club Australia Conduct and Disciplinary Policy.
- Sanctions for breaching the Code of Conduct include a range of disciplinary actions such as warnings, suspensions, education or termination of membership.

[PCA Complaint Form](#)



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Always display the values, rules and spirit of Pony Club.
- Be ethical, considerate, fair and honest in all dealings with other people and organisations.
- Act with honesty, integrity and objectivity. See it from the other person's view point.
- Be accountable for your own behaviour and actions.
- Maintain appropriate, professional relationships at all times.
- Accept and respect the authority of officials undertaking their role.
- Do not use offensive language or behaviour, show unnecessary dissension, displeasure or disapproval towards an official or volunteer, without them we don't have Pony Club.
- Treat everyone with courtesy, respect, dignity and understand their role, duties and have proper regard for their rights and obligations.
- Safeguard your health and safety and that of others involved with Pony Club.
- Know the policies, rules and regulations in place to promote a safe, fun and fair Pony Club.
- Abide by the PCA Horse Welfare Policy and always provide your horse(s) with appropriate care and good management.
- Don't be under the influence of alcohol or drugs when at Pony Club.
- Don't engage in public or domestic violence.
- Abide by the rules of competition.
- Don't be a public nuisance or disturbance within or around a Pony Club activity.
- Comply with all reasonable directions of Pony Club representatives and accept decisions graciously.
- Don't be under the influence or possess an illegal drug whilst participating in Pony Club activities.
- Respect and protect confidential or sensitive information.
- Be prepared to admit your poor behaviour and apologise or accept sanctions.

Pony Club is a fun place to develop lifelong friends and a love of horses and horse sports.

*Scan to read the full
PCA Code of Conduct*

