

PONY CLUB VICTORIA

2023 RIDE TO TIME STATE

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ride To Time is a competition that rewards the combination who travels the closest to an optimum set speed. We have two sections competing today, Open and Maiden. Open riders complete 1000m in the optimum time of 109 seconds. Maiden riders complete 1000m in 120 seconds.

Through this competition, many pony club competitors will connect with the racing industry and undertake roles such as riding trackwork, become an apprentice jockey, or stable hand.

The competition would not be possible without the support of racing clubs across the state including Cranbourne, Pakenham, Moe, Yarra Glen, Donald, Benalla, Geelong, Warrnambool. Kerang and Peshurst where qualification trials are run and of course The Valley who support these state championships year after year.

Today the Open riders will compete first.

OPEN SECTION

RIDER 1 MATILDA BREMNER

Matilda is 22 years of age and today represents Barwon Zone. She has been a pony club member for at least 14 years.

No stranger to this event, Matilda has competed here 6 times previously and won state champion title twice. She also placed 3rd four times. Matilda is first up to ride, and certainly the one to beat!

This year Matilda's competing on her Arab x Riding Pony called Shakanda Aloul Farj or Dee at home. Together they enjoy mounted games, show jumping and eventing.

Dee and Matilda first partnered when Matilda was a young teen and together they won nearly every show jumping competition series in their zone. A tough decision to sell him was made so that Matilda could move onto the next horse. Four years later, they purchased him back and here they are having success once again.

Today Matilda competes in the silks of Cox Plate Winner of 2003 and 2006, the legendary Fields of Omagh.



RIDER 2 JESSCIA NORMAN

Today is a special day for Jess – its her 21st birthday!

She is riding her Off The Track horse Way To Go Bo. Bo is an unraced 14 year old who loves attending pony club and competing in eventing, dressage, show jumping and even mounted games. He is great on the trails and loves a gallop up the hill track near home.

Jess joined Ballan pony club in 2010 and is their Vice President. Jess has enjoyed the journey competing in the Ride To Time events and values the skills she has developed. She feels the discipline helps her build a great connection with her horse. This year she competed in events at Geelong, Pakenham and Cranbourne. She worked for 18 months for trainer Ciaron Maher and is competing today in his silks.

Jess' favourite jockey is Sarah Field. Jess has watched Sarah work hard at becoming an apprentice jockey and loved watching her win her first race.

Today Jess is competing for Barwon Zone.

(sorry no photo of Ciaron's silks).

RIDER 3 LAUREN LAZZAROTTO

Lauren is today riding her purebred welsh pony Burrabong Flynn and together they represent East Gippsland Zone.

This is the first time Lauren has attended the Ride To Time State Championships. Lauren is a stable hand and track rider for her grandfather Chalie Gafa. It's fitting that today she is competing in the family silks. Everyone in the family plays a part in the operations of the stables.

Lauren is inspired by her grandfather as he is hard working and looks after his horses really well. She has some favourite racehorses including Heartland Raider, Red Charobea and Blacktype Magic which were all trained by her grandfather. Lauren's mum is assisted trainer to Charlie.

Lauren's favourite jockey is Michael Walker.



RIDER 4 GEORGIA DON

Georgia joined pony club at 8 years of age. 23 year old Georgia is competing today for North East Zone and riding her 13 year old Off The Track horse Prairie Sun.

Retiring in 2018, he won prizemoney totalling \$86, 444 from 56 starts.

Georgia is riding in Talinga Park silks today. This stable is situated outside Wangaratta and Georgia currently works at their stud/rehab/pre-training facility.

Georgia is looking forward to showcasing her beautiful horse and showing the public how OTT horses can have a great life after racing.



RIDER 5 AMANDA WARD

Amanda is 16 years of age and today represents North East Zone.

Amanda is competing on the Off The Track horse ScoMo Eagle or Scotty as he is known at home. He was a million-dollar yearling before starting a racing career in NZ. He was sent to Australia to finish his racing career but was unsuccessful.

Amanda has brought her horse to the Ride To Time series this year to develop his pace and help them achieve optimum time when competing in eventing. She competed in this event in 2019.

Amanda's connection to racing is through her Poppy who bred Churchill's Speech who was trained by Peter Maher of Wodonga. The horse had some wins but the most special was when he won a race the same day of her Poppy's funeral after not having much success in some time.

Today Amanda honours her grandfather and the horse by riding in the Peter Maher silks.



RIDER 6 TAHLEI SPRATLING

Tahlei is looking to do one better today by winning the Open section after coming a close second in 2022. She is competing today for North Metro Zone.

Tahlei is riding her 13-year-old Australian Riding X Arab pony Ascot Party Dance.

In future Tahlei would be interested in becoming a track rider. Her favourite jockey is Michelle Payne as she is an inspiration for future horse women.

Tahlei has chosen to wear the silks of Gold Fields. Her uncle is a part owner and Tahlei loved to watch him race. Gold Fields was trained by Logan McGill and retired in 2021.



RIDER 7 ERIN BLACHFORD

20-year-old Erin is today representing Northern Zone aboard her 14 year old quarter horse x arabian called Archie and this is her first state event.

Archie is quirky but honest and can live up to his chestnut reputation. He is super fun to ride.

She is competing today in the Davis racing silks. Tim Davis is a local trainer who generously sponsors the Bamawm Extension Pony Club, with a percentage of winnings from his horses donated back to the club.

Erin's favourite jockey is Michelle Payne. Michelle's ability to overcome extreme odds and pushing back against a male dominated sport is inspiring to Erin.

Outside of riding, Erin is a high-level pistol shooter.



RIDER 8 ANNABELLE ENNIS-WERT

Annabelle is representing South Metro Zone for the third time today having competed here in 2019 and 2022. In 2022 Annabelle placed a credible 4th and is today looking to better that. She is riding her Off The Track horse who raced as Coombe Lane. Lenny has transitioned well into a life within pony club and is a successful eventing and show jumping horse. He is extremely versatile happily trail riding in the bush one day, then attending pony club and competitions the next. He loves liquorice and carrots and is always willing to please.

Annabelle has been a member of pony club for 12 years. She works as a groom 5 days a week at a Grand Prix Show Jumping stable. Today she rides in the silks of Moonee Valley's legendary 1979 Cox Plate Winner – Dulcify.

She is inspired by jockey Craig Williams and favourite horse is Giga Kick who coincidentally is racing today in the Group 2 Mittys McEwan Stakes! Will they both take the win today??



RIDER 9 TRACEY GORICK

Tracey is 22 years of age and today represents West Gippsland Zone.

She has competed here four times previously and in 2022 was riding her homebred Welsh C. This year she steps it up aboard the Off The Track horse Chastity. Chastity trialled once and came dead last. Tracey and Chastity have only been partnered since March and have plans to compete in eventing and dressage.

Tracey has worked in a racing pre-training facility and current works for an event rider.

Tracey's favourite racehorse is Goodifwecould. Her favourite flat trainer is Peter Moody while jumps racing its Mayberry Racing.

Today Tracey competes in the legendary Better Loosen Up silks. Better loosen up was the 1990 Cox Plate winner.



RIDER 10 MAKAYLA LOWTHER

20 year old Maka is today representing Wannon Zone. Maka was a competitor here last year on her welsh cob and this year has upgraded to Off The Track horse Longclaw looking to make her mark on this competition. She has stepped up into the Open class this year.

Longclaw or Beau in the stables, was originally purchased through the Magic Millions by Mick Price. He then moved to Patrick Payne's stables to train in steeple chasing. He retired in 2022 and become a Christmas present for Maka last year.

Maka rides trackwork for Warrnambool trainer Jane Baker and is riding in her colours today. When she is not busy riding, Maka is either studying for her law & criminology degree for working in the office of a local school.

A member of pony club from 6 years of age, Maka is also keen to event with this horse and see what they can achieve together.



MAIDEN SECTION

RIDER 11 GEORGIA MATTHEWS

16-year-old Georgia is riding her Off The Track horse Falling & Flying. Called Belle at home, she trialled once and crossed the line last. Georgia is representing Barwon Zone in this championship event.

Belle and Georgia love eventing, show jumping, endurance and trial riding. Since being introduced to the discipline, Georgia is now working for Alisa Hinch as a stable hand. She would love to become a track rider.

Georgia competed on her other OTT horse Luckbea Lady last year and came a credible 5th. She is looking to improve that result this year with Belle.

Georgia is today wearing the silks of Alisa's Empower Racing which is fitting as Falling & Flying was one of Alisa's horses before retiring.



RIDER 12 TAMIKA COGGAN

Central Zone rider Tamika is today competing on her 17-year-old mare Miss Indienna Blue. She has been a pony club member for 8 years. Tamika rescued Indie from the pound. Through love, trust and good food Indie has built a strong bond with Tamika and now her personality shines.

Tamika is 17 years old and enjoys competing in show jumping, cross country, trail riding, horsemanship, cattle work, obstacles and mounted games.

She is not currently involved in the racing industry but would like to be a track rider. Her racing inspiration is Michelle Payne.

Tamika is riding in her uncle's colours. She is truly honoured to wear these silks with a deep sense of pride. The colours of these silks hold a significant meaning within the family, symbolising their unwavering support for the Bulldogs (AFL).

These silks have been embraced within the racing industry throughout the state in various races, including Harness Racing, Pony Trots and Flat Racing.

Tamika is honoured to add the Pony Club Ride to Time State Championships at Moonee Valley to the list.



RIDER 13 ZOE BIRKS

Zoe is competing on her Off The Track horse Ruby Rose and today represents East Gippsland Zone. Ruby Rose is 20 years of age and has been shared amongst the family before finally getting into the hands of Zoe. They love dressage, jumping and just riding around the paddock, sometimes bareback. Ruby Rose was never fast enough but has been a fabulous pony club mount. She is related to Winx and Zenyatta.

Zoe loves watching horse's race. Which might be why she also loves to ride fast!

Zoe enjoys Ride To Time particularly the maths and focus involved in counting the beats to get the best time. Zoe would love to help re-educate more Off The Track horses in future.

Zoe's favourite jockey is Michelle Payne as she possesses a never give up attitude. Her favourite trainer is Bernadette Lazzarotto while favourite race horse is Secretariat.

When Zoe is not riding she is busy learning Japanese and Portuguese!

Zoe is looking forward to riding The Valley turf today and will compete wearing the magnificent 1999 and 2000 Cox Plate Winner Sunline silks today.

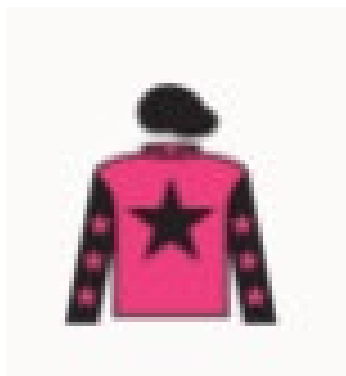


RIDER 14 NEVE NISBET

Midland Zone Representative Neve is competing on her horse Buster whose racing name is Robusta. Robusta is 12 years of age and won \$55,000 in prize money from 49 starts. He was trained by Glen and Cheryl McNamara in Albury and they still own him. Jockeys argued over who would ride him at track work each morning and he was also used as a lead pony. It is fitting that she is today competing in the McNamara racing silks.

Neve would like to consider becoming a track rider in future and her favourite racehorse is Black Caviar. As a child Neve would have posters of Black Caviar everywhere. At home, Neve's dad has the racing channel on all day every day. She admires the skills of jockey Luke Nolan.

This is not the first state event for this duo, Neve and Robusta competed and won the State Musical Ride Championships in June this year. Can they win two in a row?



RIDER 15 JESSICA ANDREWS

Today Jessica is riding her Off The Track horse Twiggy. Jessica is representing the North East Zone. Today Jessica is riding in her grandparents' racing colours of Jim and Peg James. Their property in Mansfield was called Coonara and horses such as Sans Doute, Given Time, Break Through were all trained by Jim. Peg was a lady rider some 50 years ago.

Jessica tries her hand at other disciplines such as showing, eventing, campdrafting and barrel racing.

When not riding, Jessica can be found on the farm working or at one of her two part time jobs.

Jessica is keen to become a Clerk of the Course in future. Her favourite jockey is Billy Egan who local to where Jessica lives.



RIDER 16 SHENAE SPRATLING

Shenae was a finalist at this event in 2022 and is back to improve on her 6th place result.

Riding her 21-year-old Australian Riding Pony Lynsway Serenade, Shenae is representing the North Metro Zone. Shenae joined pony club at 2 years of age and loves competing in eventing.

Shenae is riding today in 'Yes Baby Yes' silks. 'Yes Baby Yes' was part owned by Shenae's uncle and was a clear winner of the Group2 Fillies Classic right here at The Valley with jockey Craig Williams aboard.

Shenae's favourite jockey is Damien Oliver and she would be interested in learning about becoming a track rider in future.



RIDER 17 ROBERT SCOBIE

Robert is 13 years of age and has travelled all the way from Mildura to compete today. He represents the Northern Zone at his first Ride To Time Championships.

He has been a member of Pony Club Victoria for four years.

Robert is competing in the Kingston Town silks. Kingston Town was trained by T.J Smith and is the legendary Cox Plate winner of 1980, 81 & 82.

Robert is riding his Australian Riding Pony Darcy who is 8 years of age. Their favourite disciplines include novelties, trail riding, barrels and jumping. Darcy is a sticky beak who likes to see what Robert is eating.

Robert thoroughly enjoyed riding at the racetrack to qualify and is interested in considering track riding in future. His family have a retired racehorse at home called 'Fight to the line' which is mother competes on.



RIDER 18 SPIKE LYNCH

Spike is 12 years of age and represents South Metro Zone today. This is his first time competing at the Ride To Time State Championships. His partner in crime today is the Standardbred 17 year old Belle who he purchased from Gum Tree. Together they have improved their skills riding at pace through the Ride To Time competition. Spike loves showing others what a great horse Belle is and showing what she's capable of.

Today Spike competes in the 1986 Cox Plate Winner Bonecrusher silks.

Spike has an amazing partnership with Belle, she always tries her hardest. These two are not strangers to State events, having competed at state level in the Pony Club Victoria Musical Ride Competition.

Spike would love to build horse arenas when he grows up.



RIDER 19 OLIVIA WOODBERRY

13-year-old Olivia is representing West Gippsland Zone today. She is riding her TB / Warmblood cross Golden Topaz.

Olivia's family are involved in the racing industry with both her mum and grandmother are hobby trainers. Olivia would love to one day join the family tradition and become a trainer also. Today Olivia is riding in the family race colours of Sunny Reeve.

Olivia's other favourite disciplines are show jumping and dressage.

People who inspire her in the racing industry include Bart Cummings, Peter Moody and jockey Aaron Lynch. Her favourite race horse is Apache Cat as he looks a lot like her own horse.



RIDER 20 KATE SMITH

Today Kate is competing in two-time Cox Plate Winner Northerly silks. Northerly won the Cox Plate in 2000 & 2001. Kate is representing West Gippsland Zone. She is riding her Off The Tracker Racin' Leica. Racin' Leica was very unsuccessful winning very little prize money. He was trained by Darren Weir.

In his new life in pony club, Franky loves to jump, trial rides and eventing but with Kate completing year 12 studies there hasn't been much time for that.

Kate thought she would try Ride To Time this year to give Franky a change and have fun without the pressure of jumping.

Kate has worked as a racing stable hand part time and would love to pursue a lifetime with horses post school. Her favourite racehorse was I'm Thunderstruck as she was fortunate to work with him at Mick Kent's stables. He was a stickybeak and loved to keep watch of everything that was going on.

Favourite jockeys are Jamie Kah and Rachel King who both prove that women can compete against the men in this sport.



PRESENTATIONS

Results from this event will be shared at a presentation ceremony which will be held between races 2 & 3 on the turf in front of the winning post.

Many thanks again to the team at The Valley for hosting the 2023 Pony Club Victoria Ride To Time Championships.

Well done to all riders and thank you to the Pony Club Victoria volunteers, coaches, officials and families of the competitors who have assisted at zone qualifiers and at the state event today. Without you this event would not be possible.