



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

OCTOBER 2023

PCA News

Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter

**Recruiting
New Members**

**PCA Awards
finalists
announced**

**Simply Say
Thank You**

**Avoiding
Laminitis**

**National
Championships
start in WA**



info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au
www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au



Nationals are Underway!



Want to get into Nationals mood?
Here's the Official Spotify Playlist 😊
<https://spotify.link/EoA5gM4m7Cb>



The West Australian State Equestrian Centre was all abuzz as the tetrathlon riders competed in their first phase of the event - jumping - on the weekend. Thank you to Fred Freeman for designing and building the course, Judy Rose who was the judge for the day, and Deb Ware, Steward.

All the riders competing at the various State Hubs will use this course design, but we will all have to wait until Thursday, 5th October to know the outcome, as the other State riders now come to WA to complete the other three phases of the event. These are just a few snapshots of WA riders in action, courtesy of Eric Lloyd Photography - with thanks to Wanda Longley, PCAWA



Two Wells Equestrian and Pony Club (SA, left) has seven riders heading to the Nationals!

Right: Look at the great team uniforms for these NT members in the Mounted Games team, now at the Victorian games hub.



Cover photo

Charlotte Caldwell and her beautiful horse Alice are representing Wanneroo Horse and Pony Club and WA in the showjumping at the Petstock Pony Club Australia Nationals Championships in WA this week.





DREAM. BELIEVE. ACHIEVE

Nationals Feature Event - what is a Showman class?



October 2nd - 5th 2023

[Petstock Australia PCA
National Championships
website](#)
(and Facebook)

The Showman class consists of 3 or 4 phases of equal weighting (100 marks each). All classes have a dressage test, an individual ridden display and an in-hand presentation.

Four phase Showman classes also include a jumping phase. The same horse/athlete combination must complete all phases in the correct order. The Rules for Showman have been designed to correspond with the National Sport Rules of each of the disciplines represented wherever possible.



How to do a correct trot-up

There are two main situations when you might need to trot your horse up – for your vet or for the judge in a showing class. Trotting your horse up properly for your vet is important because doing it incorrectly could affect his way of going and not give your vet a clear picture. At a show, a good trot-up will show your horse off at his absolute best.

To master a good trot up...

- Make sure you stay level with your horse's shoulder and away from his side so the vet or judge has a good view of him.
- Look up and ahead to where you're going to help keep you straight and your horse moving forward positively.
- When you ask your horse to trot, he should react promptly, and the trot should be active – not too slow or too hurried.
- Hold the lead rope or reins so there's a little slack, and make sure his head and neck are straight so that his head movement isn't affected. This is particularly important when trotting him up for the vet because they'll want to see whether there is any head nod.
- Walk away and back first before asking him to do it in trot. Use this time to get him moving forward and listening to you.
- When it's time to turn, bring your horse back to walk, turn him away from you, then make sure he's straight before asking him to trot back to the judge or vet.

Thanks to PCAWA for this explanation.

CLASSES FOR NATIONALS

Sub Junior (10 - 12 years)

Showman 3 Phase (Preliminary 1.3 Dressage + a set Ridden Workout + a set In Hand Workout)

Junior/Senior (13 - 25 years)

Showman 3 Phase (Novice 2.3 Dressage + a set Ridden Workout + a set In Hand Workout)

Sub Junior (10 - 12 years)

Showman 4 Phase (Preliminary 1.3 Dressage + a set Ridden Workout + a set In Hand Workout + Showjumping 60cm)

Junior/Senior (13 - 25 years)

Showman 4 Phase (Novice 2.3 Dressage + a set Ridden Workout + a set In Hand Workout + Showjumping 80cm)

Junior/Senior (13 - 25 years)

Showman 4 Phase (Novice 2.3 Dressage + a set Ridden Workout + a set In Hand Workout + Showjumping 90cm)

The 2023 PCA Awards



FINALISTS

Good luck everyone!

Rider 12 Years and Under

Amelia Gordon, Serpentine HPC
Chloe Benis, Tooradin Dalmore PC
Clara Greenwood, Macedon PC

Rider 13-17 Years

Brianna Ballesty, Rokewood PC
Emily Hudak, Seville PC
Olivia Sleep, Merricks PC

Rider 18-25 Years

Emily Newberry, Mooloolah PC
Lily Pettigrew, Matcham Valley PC
Sara Leitch, Hastings PC

Volunteer of the Year

Bill Sadleir, Ravenshoe PC
Julie Cameron, Wallangarra Riding & PC
Robyn Gordon, Serpentine PC

Winners announced later this month!



For Your Pony Club Polo Tops



38 Nyora Rd, Eltham, VIC,
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The 2023 PCA Awards



FINALISTS

Good luck everyone!

Young Coach of the Year

Jayde Kirkham, Macedon PC
Lacey Male, Toongabbie & Dist PC
Tracey Gorick, Bunyip PC

Coach of the Year

Kasey Manolini, Albany PC
Julie Stewart, Main Ridge PC
Niree Weybury, Woodlands PC

Riding Centre of the Year

Firefly Park Equestrian Centre
Little Ranch Riding School
Phoenix Acres Equine Centre

Club of the Year

Canberra Riding Club PC
Keira Pony Club
Mornington Peninsula PC

Alumni Award

Danielle Smith, Mornington Peninsula PC
Rachael Edwards, North Eastern HPC
Todd Hinde, Bega Pony Club

Winners announced
later this month!



EAST COAST EQUINE CONSTRUCTION

NSW - Builders LIC 257198C | Part of the SS Projects Group | QLD - Builders LIC 15024420



Pony Club International Alliance International Virtual Showjumping Event 2023



Congratulations to the 16 riders from WA who represented Australia in this annual event. The Australian leg was held at Brookleigh Equestrian Centre in August. WA put up their hand to host the event and selected a high calibre of rider in the each age and height group.

Riders in each country jump the same course and results from the other countries should be coming in over the next couple of months.

Team members were:

Senior (25yrs&U): Vanessa Davis, Jack Bennett, Tayla Carpenter & Lewis Hudson
Junior (13-16yrs): Allira Bond, Aimee Kidd, Isabelle Cox & Ella McCrum
Subjunior (12yrs&U): Lily Bennett, Matilda March, Lexi Caldwell & Amelia Chester
Masters (Over 25yrs): Kaitlin Goss, Georgia Lowry, Jazmin Anderson & Alison Hanson

The two competition rounds were judged by Rosemary Inglis and alongside her was the ground jury of Fred Freeman, Tanya Appleby and Kristy Rae. The riders were also very fortunate to have Vicki from Lucky Penny Photography there to capture this very special event.

The senior team were the first team to kick off, over a course set at 105cm for the first round (not against the clock) and the height being raised to 110cm for the second round over a shortened course against the clock. The junior, masters and sub juniors all completed a course set at 80 cm for the first round with the height being raised to 85cm for the second round over a shortened course.

All horses and riders were presented and rode to a very high standard. There was a great deal of support from all of those involved with the running of the event and everyone rode for Australia with a great deal of pride and fantastic sportsmanship was shown.

Although not everyone got the results they may have hoped for, everyone tried their hardest. There is now a waiting game to see where team Australia has placed against countries all over the world. No matter what the results end up being, everyone who was involved should be very pleased with their efforts as they all did Australia proud.

- By Vanessa Davis - senior rider.

Horses and ponies prone to laminitis require a safe forage-based diet

ALL horse and pony diets should be forage based. ALL diets should contain an absolute minimum of 1.5% of bodyweight of forage. And ideally they should be fed 2% of their bodyweight in forage per day.

- For a 300 kg pony this is 6 kg per day.
- And for a 500 kg horse, it is 10 kg/day.

BUT, in spring, for those prone to laminitis, their main source of forage, their pasture, can become unsafe for them to graze.

Which means we need to find alternative, SAFE sources of forage!

If we don't feed enough forage, serious problems like gastric ulcers, colic, dehydration, boredom, stereotypical behaviours, changes in gut bacterial balance, reduced immune function and the destruction of your trees and fences with wood chewing behaviour may occur.

So it's critical that we feed enough forage!

Dr Nerida McGilchrist PhD

Multicube Teff & Lucerne Hay Cubes

MultiCube Teff & Lucerne Hay Cubes provide the perfect forage species and forage form variety for your laminitis prone horses and ponies.

Low in non-structural carbohydrates (something that is regularly tested), the cubes are a laminitis safe forage and are excellent for creating environmental enrichment and encouraging natural foraging behaviours.

Plus with their longer stem fibres they will create more chewing and beneficial saliva production than shorter chopped chaffs.

They can easily be soaked for older horses or horses with poor teeth.



Just for PCA Members!

WIN

2 x Major Prize Packs:
Duncan Equine Paddock Feeder
2 Bags Teff & Lucerne Cubes
& MultiCube Cap

2 x Small Prize Packs:
1 Bag Teff & Lucerne Cubes & MultiCube Cap

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Scan the code to enter or visit:
multicube.com.au/pca-competition/
Entries close 31.10.2023
Terms & conditions apply, see our website

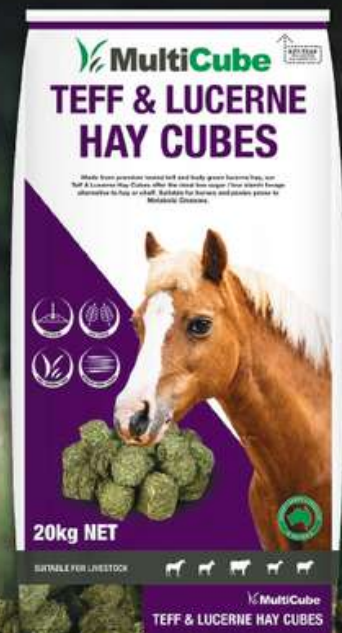
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NEW SACHET RANGE, PERFECT TRAVEL SIZE



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Around The Grounds



There have been quite a few clubs around the country enjoying camps during the school holidays, catching up with friends, making new ones and learning new skills.

Top left and right: Gunnedah Pony Club at rest and play.

Left: This Dungog Pony Club rider at the camp hosted by Paterson River Pony Club is obviously not intimidated by the bison they are campdrafting. Other clubs attending this camp were Bulahdelah, Salt Ash, Mount Sugarloaf, Maitland, Cessnock, Hinton Wallalong, and Gloucester.



Winton Pony Club took part in the Grand Parade at the Outback Festival at Winton. There were heaps of cheers from the locals and people from around the state who were visiting for the week long event.

FOODS YOU SHOULD NEVER FEED YOUR HORSE



Avocado



Chocolate



Potatoes



Tomatoes



Onions



Cabbage, Brussel Sprouts & Kale

Vegetables that can produce gas in the gut or are from the nightshade family should not be fed to horses.



Salkavite - keep your horse hydrated

The purpose of sweat is to maintain body temperature within normal, healthy limits. Exercise of any kind, depending on your horse or pony's level of fitness, may increase the process of sweating.

Especially as we enter a dry and hot summer where sweating will further increase (even on non-exercise days!), supplementing electrolytes for losses in sweat may be critical to ensure our horses and ponies stay happy and hydrated.

This is where a daily provision of Ranvet Salkavite can help.

Australia's #1 Equine Electrolyte, Salkavite, is a premium Electrolyte and B-Group Vitamin replacer suitable for not just horses, but ponies too. Just 30g a day, added to your horse's feed or water, will provide them with a concentrated source of all critical Electrolytes, B Group Vitamins and Antioxidants - the very nutrients that are lost in sweat - to aid in reducing dehydration, muscle fatigue and delayed recovery.

Salkavite is available in sizes ranging from 180g travel sachets to bulk-friendly 16kg buckets, and can be found at Ranvet Stockists across the country and online.

Want to know more? <https://www.ranvet.com.au/products/salkavite/>



Now in sachets for when you are on the move

Photo previous page: Ranvet's newest Junior Ambassador and Glenorie Pony Club member, Skye McKewin.

[Ranvet](#) is a proud sponsor of the 2023 PCA Awards - finalists announced next week!



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Keira Pony Club rides for Mt Kembla Pit Pony Memorial



On the 31st of July 1902 96 men and boys , and 18 pit ponies lost their lives on Mt Kembla (NSW) in Australia's worst mining disaster.

In August this year, six members young (and less young) of Keira Pony Club gathered at the Farmborough Heights Rural Fire Service (RFS) to ride as a group through the state park.

They rode past abandoned mines, villages and pit pony stables through the bush, to lay a wreath at the Windy Gully Cemetery in honour of the pit ponies who lost their lives along with their human counterparts in the Mt Kembla Mine Disaster in 1902.

A minute's silence was held, a poem by local Len Lefley was recited by the senior instructor, the wreath was laid, and after a picnic lunch, the group rode back down the mountain, stopping to chat to locals and let children pat their horses on the way. Keira Pony Club would like to thank the Farmborough Heights RFS and NPWS for all their support.



If you have gained the trust of a horse, you have won a friend for life



Be Kind To Your Vet

Proudly supporting
RUOK?



For R UOK? Day 2023 (Sept 14) we looked at vets.

We know that most, if not all, of our members appreciate their vets and the great care and calm reassurance they provide. But your vet may arrive at your place after a difficult case (or customer) so it is important to treat them well.

One vet will die by suicide every 12 weeks, figures from the Australian Veterinary Association show. Many more struggle with their mental health and some only last five years or so despite being in a job they have long wanted to do.

Vets generally face long hours for low pay and are exposed daily to animal suffering and emotional owners. Imagine a job where you see injured or suffering pets and livestock all the time and face owners who can be demanding or simply upset? It's also a job where you can be on call on weekends and overnight.

Vets accept euthanasia is part of their job and they feel a sense of gratitude that they can peacefully let an animal cross the rainbow bridge, but sometimes owners have unrealistic expectations. Sometimes owners are unwilling to put their animal to sleep because they don't want to be without them, leaving them to suffer and demanding vets make them comfortable.

Sometimes they are called out after hours for an animal that has been already suffering for hours and are expected to work miracles. Some owners use emotional blackmail if they cannot afford the treatment their pet needs. (eg 'How can you let this animal suffer?' 'I will take him home and treat him myself...')

What can you do?

- If you own a horse, you need to be prepared to pay any costs that may arise.
- Thank your vet for their time and their care of your animal
- Don't call them out after hours unless it's a real emergency.
- Pay your bill promptly
- Don't neglect your animals and leave them to suffer; get prompt help.
- And when the time comes, allow your horse to go to sleep humanely.



From Saddlecloths to Socks

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Our in-house seamstresses can make your saddle pad from our vast collection of fabrics and embellishments, from bindings, ropes & even embroidery.



**Pony Club
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A Simple

**THANK
YOU**

Makes a Difference

It is very exciting when you and your horse do well and win a trophy or prize - just like these two.

Gus and his horse Uno from Balnarring PC took a first at the Cranbourne Pony Club Combined Training event last month, while Kaiyana May from Maroochy Pony Club had a big showjumping win. Their rugs were sponsored by The Clipper Shop and Stockguard Fencing respectively.

We mention this because of a recent Facebook post about the Garryowen. Each year the top six placegetters in this prestigious turnout event at Melbourne Show win an inscribed woollen rug. For the last 10 years or more they have been donated by Cedar Lodge at a cost of over \$1000 per year. The company mentioned that last year, none of the recipients thanked them, whereas once they nearly all did with a letter or email.

Clubs and other organisers will tell you it can be very hard to get sponsors, so every rider who thanks them makes it a little more likely they will sponsor again. These days, you can thank sponsors by email or online message, or by tagging them in a post about your win. It is another option not available in the old days, and the sponsor gets more exposure as well.

"Without support from like-minded business or people like us - there would be no prizes to win, no money and no ribbons," Cedar Lodge said.

"On the bottom of the rugs there is a supporter's name - thank them and if there isn't (a name) then thank (the organisers) for supplying it."

Sponsors are often local businesses - let's all make sure we thank them in some way.



Gus and his horse Uno from Balnarring PC took a first at the Cranbourne Pony Club Combined Training event this month. Their rug was sponsored by The Clipper Shop.



Kaiyana May from Maroochy Pony Club is delighted with her showjumping win. Her rug was sponsored by Stockguard Fencing. Photo: Oz Shotz

Short Online Courses on Horse Health

We welcome TBA Learning as a new sponsor of the Young Coach of the Year in the 2023 PCA Awards. TBA Learning, from Thoroughbred Breeders Australia, provides a series of free, short online courses with assessment tasks on horse health and husbandry.

Participants receive a certificate of completion for each course.

These free courses will be particularly useful for general information and revision for coaches and riders C*/K and above.

<https://www.tbalearning.com/start>



Is It Time For The Next Size Up?

Domain 3 of the PCA Horse Welfare Policy is horse health



Under the PCA Horse Welfare Policy the combined weight of the rider and gear should not be more than about 20% of the weight of the horse or pony.



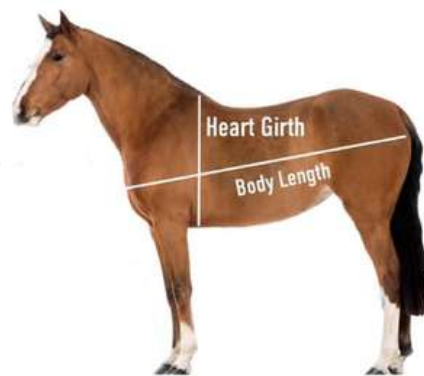
I see you have grown, but I haven't

Welfare Wednesday



Riders and horses should be suitably matched, and that includes their size. It is important to plan ahead as young riders grow, and perhaps pass that golden pony to another child to ride. Adult riders are also responsible for making sure their horse is the right size for them.

Your vet might have scales to check the weight of your horse, or estimations can be made from measurement of the horse's 'heart girth' at the wither and body length.



Estimated weight in kg

$$= \frac{[(\text{girth in cm})^2 \times \text{length in cm}]}{11877}$$

Carroll, C.L. and Huntington, P.J. (1988) Body condition scoring and weight estimation of horses Equine Veterinary Journal 20, 41-45.



RIGHT: Here is one way to estimate the weight of your horse or pony

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Coming events

Victoria

Oct 27 - Moonee Valley Races

1st pony race at 5:35pm

2nd pony race at 6:57pm

(Taster Day has been held and riders selected)

Western Australia

Dec 2 - Taster Day @ Serpentine Horse & Pony Club

Register via this link:

<https://pca.justgo.com/workbench/public/events?ref=8AE6B3711A30302CD97DBCA8364D9DE59A60B1D4>

Dec 9 - Race Day Ascot Racecourse

Queensland

Nov 5 - Taster Day West Toowoomba Taster Day

Register via this link:

<https://pca.justgo.com/workbench/public/events?ref=9CB8504F35C73DC0FB3E5577138C0A79FEB26574>

Jan 6 - Race Day @ Gold Coast Turf Club

South Australia

Taster Day date and venue to be confirmed.

Register an Expression of Interest via this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/232058540325854>

Mar 11 - Race Day, Adelaide

New South Wales

Jan 26 - Race Day Warwick Farm racecourse Sydney.

More details to come.

Photos: Blacktown Taster Day. These days allow riders to learn from experts in the field



*Photos: Blacktown (NSW) and Woodlands (VIC) Taster Days.
These days allow riders to learn from experts in the field*



SPECIAL GUEST No 1: (LEFT)

At the Blacktown Pony Race Taster day, renowned top trainer Gai Waterhouse dropped in; some of her grandchildren were also attending. Everyone sang happy birthday as it was Gai's birthday. She was very impressed with the concept and the standard of riding.

SPECIAL GUEST No 2: (RIGHT)
At the Victorian Taster Day at Woodlands Pony Club, the special guests included retired champion racehorse Chautauqua and Casey Bruce, who has rehomed and retrained him to be a show horse. Also shown is champion jockey Greg Childs (behind the dog), whose twins attended Pony Club at the Woodlands grounds.





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Free webinar
Tuesday Oct 31
7pm (AEDT)

[LINK](#)

Recruitment & Retention

Finding and keeping members!

Recruiting & Retaining members

Recruiting and retaining members is a vital activity for your club.

Retaining members an extremely important part of running a club. Finding members is much harder than keeping those you have found. Making sure you understand what your members want and providing them with the experience they are after is an important part of retaining members.

Recruiting members requires some planning and research to understand who your target markets are and where you might find these individuals. It requires your club to know what service you are offering and making it easy to become a part of your club.

The members we also need to retain and recruit are our volunteers. We need to make sure we have plenty of people to help us create fun and enjoyable times at our club. Ensuring we have clarity around jobs is essential for recruiting volunteers.

Questions

Recruiting & Retaining Members

- Does our club have a recruitment strategy?
- Does our club know what members it is keen to attract?
- Does our club have role descriptions for all volunteer positions ?
- Does our club have a website for advertising what it does?
- Does our club run come & try or some kind of trial opportunity?
- Does our club understand the demographics in our area?
- Does our club conduct exit surveys of all members who don't return?
- Does our club run member satisfaction surveys each year?
- Does our club have a suggestion box or take on member feedback?
- Does our club have a welcome night or information night?
- Does our club have a social calendar or social events?

Make sure to come to our Recruiting and Retaining members webinar to learn more!