



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

FEBRUARY 2024

PCA News

Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter

**International
Exchanges
for 2024**

**Working for
Kevin McNab**

**Win a
Horse Book**



**Children
and social
media**

**Pony Racing Coming
Down to the Wire**



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





Jacob Paul

Young Citizen of the Year 2024

Well done, Jacob!

Jacob Paul has been a member of the Two Wells Equestrian and Pony Club since he was six months old – and is now the volunteer groundskeeper!

In 2023 he devoted over 500 volunteer hours to the Club while finishing Year 12. When not riding his horse Storm, Jacob is busy caring for eight acres of land, setting up for rallies, working in the canteen, and encouraging others.

Jacob says that he enjoys volunteering because he gets to keep the grounds neat, tidy, and safe for everyone to enjoy – and of course, he likes being around the horses too. Congratulations to Jacob Paul, Adelaide Plains' Young Citizen of the Year 2024 🏆

WINNER

Win Your Membership draw

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our survey last month. The winner of the random draw, who receives her membership paid in full, is Sarah (16) from Huntingfield Pony and Riding Club, Tasmania. The results are being compiled and will be in next month's issue.

Level 1 Coaching Manual

The new Level 1 Coaching Manual is now available to order through JustGo, for \$59. This is for coaches who have their Preliminary Coach certificate.

*Note coaches already working through their Level 1 coaching qualification can complete the course using the old manual; current Level 1 coaches can do a brief bridging course. There is provision for recognition of prior learning (RPL)

Interested in this, or starting coach training?

[More here on the PCA website](#) or go to Coaches/Coach Education

Children and Social Media

A free webinar coming up this month looks at the issues around photographing, videoing and communicating with children and young people.

It is important we celebrate our children and young people's achievements and participation in sport via photos, video and online, however, it is also essential we put safeguards in place to reduce the risk of harm.

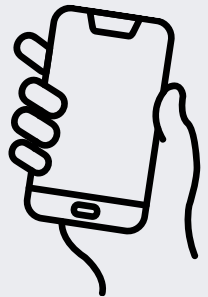
This webinar from Sport Integrity Australia will, among other things,

- Identify acceptable social media practices involving children and young people
- Have advice to share on with children and young people about what types of messages are inappropriate coming from adults

It will be held online via Microsoft Teams on

Tuesday February 13th 7.30pm-8.30pm AEDT

[REGISTER HERE:](#) (You can also see our Facebook post)



Cover photo

PHOTO: Pony Racing training, Jada and Little Chief from Woodburn Pony Club. (Thoroughbred Industry Careers)



2024 International Opportunities



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

We are seeking expressions of interest (EOI) from our members who are eager to embark on this enriching experience. We are looking for team members, coaches and team managers.

If you are enthusiastic about participating in one of these international exchanges, we invite you to express your interest via the links provided here (and in an email sent to all members in January.)

For Riders, Coaches, Managers

'These international exchanges provide a unique opportunity for you to broaden your horizons, gain valuable insights, and build connections with like-minded individuals from around the world.'



Tetrathlon UK/Ireland, July/Aug

CLOSED



International Quiz Kentucky, July

(Manager and members)

Closes Feb 12 [EOI form here](#)



China Exchanges April, May, August

CLOSED

April (Coach) Closes Feb 9 [EOI form here](#)

May (Coach) [EOI form here](#)

May (Riders) [EOI form here](#)



Mounted Games Canada, Aug/Sept

Coach & Manager closes Feb 19 [EOI form here](#)

Riders are selected through their states

Are you eligible for any exchanges?

Conditions include a valid passport, your C certificate, skills in the relevant sport, in the right age group etc. Final costs available soon.

All members submitting an expression of Interest are required to have completed the following free online courses. These courses can be found on the Sport Integrity Australia Website and most do not take long to complete.

<https://elearning.sportintegrity.gov.au/login/index.php>

Coaches and Managers

Annual Update Online Course

Anti-Doping Fundamentals Online Course

Anti-Doping Coaches Online Course

Illicit Drugs in Sport Online Course

Clean Sport 101

Child Safeguarding in Sport Induction

Riders

Annual Update Online Course

Anti-Doping Fundamentals Online Course

Clean Sport 101



Gear rules - 2024 Update



The 2024 National Gear Rules document is now available on the PCA website.

Because new products are always coming on the market, there is an annual review of gear rules by the National Gear Committee around November each year.

A new issue of the National Gear Rules dated for the coming year will be printed, announced widely to members and officials, and placed on the PCA website under Sports/National Gear Rules. **Changes are in red to stand out.**

A summary of any changes/additions is contained in a short addendum on the website which can also be downloaded.

** (Sidepull, cross under and all-leather bosal) are approved for all disciplines. Horse and rider combination must ride at minimum of two rally/muster days and be deemed safe by chief coach or equivalent prior to competition.*

**Update example:
Bitless bridles can now be used in all disciplines ***

Gear Check is the first thing that happens at any Pony Club rally, muster or event. Gear is the critical component of safety and compliance for the rider, and comfort and fit for the horse.

All clubs require riders to assemble for gear check at their designated place as soon as riders are saddled and ready to commence. Your club may decide to have members arrive unmounted or mounted. Riders must remain until a club official has approved all their gear for safety, fit and compliance.

Likewise at any competition, event, camp or clinic, the rider may not start their day without first presenting for gear check at the designated place. In addition to safety, fit and compliance, such checks ensure a fair and level playing field for all participants.



Pony Club Stars - Miss Polly Pocket



We love hearing about exceptional Pony Club mounts and Miss Polly Pocket certainly qualifies.

Miss Polly Pocket is somewhat of a legend in Western Australia.

Quite a few riders have been lucky enough to ride Polly, including a girl who suffered from PTSD after her family lost their house in the Wooroloo bush fires, where she proved a wonderful therapy pony. Paralympian Sharon Jarvis has used Polly to coach para riders, and in 2023 the grey mare returned to Capel Pony Club where, aged 29, she is being ridden by a young girl in 1st Ridden groups.

Polly has also been classy enough to take three riders to state level. She is seen here with young Nina from Wellington District Pony Club (SW Zone) at the PCWA State Championships in the U12 zone class, where they placed. That year they also took out the 65cm state eventing champs as well as topping the eventing leaderboard. The pair also competed at state level in dressage, and games.

Do you have a star horse or pony we should recognise?



Working Overseas



Morgan Stanford tells us about her **‘Chance of a Lifetime’**

In January, we shared a post from [McNabEventing](#) about a groom position in England. Tokyo Olympic silver medallist Kevin McNabb, a former Queensland Pony Clubber who is based overseas, was seeking staff. Then we found out Morgan Stanford (18) from Gympie Pony Club was actually over there working for Kevin, so we had a chat.

Morgan has spent the last six months with the McNabs at their base in Godalming, Surrey, about 50kms SW of London. She is doing a gap year after leaving school and had been doing some stable work at a racing track near her home when she saw a previous advert for staff.



“My coach knew Kevin personally so I decided to apply, and sent my resume and got the job. The days are long and you work hard – from 7am to 5pm six days a week – but it’s the chance of a lifetime,” she said.

“I have learnt so much, particularly from the head groom Lucy. I had the chance to care for horses from four year old youngsters up to 5* (Olympic standard) eventers, and even got to ride a few. The Australian team trained there, including Andrew Hoy, and I got to listen in on the lessons!” While Morgan was mostly there in the off season, (winter, and the day temperatures were about 3C!) she said Kevin has three horses already qualified for the Paris Olympics.

Kevin has his own cross country course, indoor and outdoor arenas, and 120 brood mares on the property, where the competition horses spend a lot of time outdoors.

“There are seven staff at a time and they stay for varying amounts of time. You have accommodation provided and a staff car to use to all get to work. I have made some lifelong friendships here,” she added. “You need to be prepared to work hard, and it can be repetitive, but you learn a great deal. When I finish up, I am going on a trip around Europe with Alexa who is from the US; Kevin has been training her and her horse.”

When Morgan gets home in the coming weeks, she plans on resuming riding her horse Sassy (Finch Farm Splish Splash) she has missed a great deal, and finishing her Preliminary Coach accreditation, which she put on hold for the trip. The pair enjoy showjumping, combined training and dressage the best.

“I am ready to go out competing again, and doing some coaching,” she said. And she will no doubt enjoy the warmer weather again!



(L to r): Kevin McNab, Shane Rose and Andrew Hoy with their 2020 Tokyo Olympic silver medal; Kevin on cross country overseas; the McNab’s truck and horses at an event.

Gear checker numbers grow



We now have a total of **475** PCA accredited gear checkers around Australia, since introducing the Gear Checker accreditation in late 2022. Why not do the course to increase your knowledge and help out your Club?

Become a Gear Checker in 5 Easy Steps

Your Club needs you! Have you been looking for a way to help out at your club?

Step 1 - Familiarise yourself with the [PCA National Gear Rules](#). The current rules are on the PCA website under SPORTS.

Step 2 - Download and read through the [free Gear Checkers Manual](#). This is on the website under COACH EDUCATION.

Step 3 - Find an assessor. If you are unsure of who is an assessor in your area, ask at your Club, Zone or State office (Level 1 Coaches can be gear check assessors).

Step 4 - Complete the [online written test](#)

Step 5 - Complete a practical gear check with your assessor.

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

There is also a PCA gear checkers webinar you can watch for extra information. [GearCheckersWebinarOct2022 - YouTube](#)



Horsham Pony Club held a beach camp over the school holidays. How much fun does this look! A spokesperson said, "What a great time spent at Beachport for many of our members. Lots of memories and friends were made!! Thanks Beachport Pony Club for allowing us to use your great camping facilities for another year." Did your club/zone have a camp? We'd love to see more photos and ideas.

Family photos



The Stutsel siblings (left) at Bourke and District Pony Club and (right) some years later at Hawkesbury Valley Pony Club

(L to R): Zayleigh Schuurman, Janine Schuurman and Jordie McDonell.

Daughter, mother, daughter - and all with the same smile. Mackay and District PC, August 2020.



Lucky Claire, 6, from Cooma Pony Club having a big brother like Josh, 16.



Bandages ban

- it is starting overseas

This is an interesting article (January 12) from the Netherlands and shared by the Australian Dressage Open Discussion group.

In summary the KNHS is banning the use of bandages on competition sites (dressage, jumping, driving and vaulting) based on welfare grounds - overheating the legs and risk to tendons - from April 1 (vaulting March 1 2024).

Excerpt: 'The biggest problem is that the temperature of the legs rises high under bandages, which has a detrimental effect on the elasticity of tendon tissue. It is sometimes compared to boiling an egg. The structure of the tendon fibers changes, which can damage them. It doesn't help if you cool your legs immediately after riding. "That's like first setting your house on fire and then putting it out. The damage has already been done." Lashley is surprised that some riders are so stubborn about using bandages. "Because they like it? But if you know that they can cause health problems for your horse, you never put aesthetic reasons above that, do you?'

By chance PCA's recent #WelfareWednesday post on the careful use of boots and bandages (right) was based on the overheating effect.

[The KNHS article \(click to convert to English\)](#)



Recognition for Lindy

Lindy Maurice from Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC) has been awarded the 2024 National Racing Woman of the Year Award at Magic Millions this week.

Lindy is the CEO and founder of TIC which has, for many years, worked hands on bringing passionate young individuals into the racing industry, equipping them with the knowledge and skills they need, and setting them on the path to success with placements amongst Australia's leading racing organisations.

More recently Lindy and the Thoroughbred Industry Careers team have also founded the National Pony Racing Series, which is making its way around the country, introducing Pony Club riders to the amazing opportunities in the industry, and not just as jockeys, with 'taster days' in all states open to all members.

Lindy has always been a devoted supporter of Ranvet, with Ranvet's Nutrition and Events Coordinator (and Londonderry Pony Club member) Sharne Haskins presenting Lindy with their own award as well.



Congratulating Lindy Maurice from Thoroughbred Industry Careers (centre) is (l to r) Michelle Newham (PCA), Tracy O'Hara (TIC), Lindy, Karlie Triffitt (TIC) and Sharne Haskins (Ranvet, and Londonderry Pony Club member).



Congratulations



Congratulations to Kate Thompson on being awarded a Medal of the Order Of Australia in the Australia Day Honours List, for services to the sport of Modern Pentathlon.

Anne-Catherine (Kate) Thompson has supported and guided many Pony Club riders through the discipline of Tetrathlon. Through her endeavours and hard work within the grassroots of the sport, many have followed pathways from tetrathlon toward high performance level and been fortunate to travel nationally and internationally, testing their skills and experiencing opportunities that otherwise might not have been possible.

Kate is also the chair of the PCA National Tetrathlon Committee. Thank you Kate!

[You can read more here:](#)



Kate Thompson, OAM



First Rally Excitement

Best wishes to all new members starting out on their Pony Club journey this year.

This is an excited Bronte Cochran and Thor about to start Pony Club and getting ready on a 44C degree day in Perth.

Her mother Jessica says Bronte is thrilled to be starting at Gidgegannup Pony Club this Sunday, "so much so that on this sweltering day all they wanted to do was wash, water play and do a 'dress rehearsal' to make sure that all her tack and uniforms fit correctly ready for their first Pony Club rally this Sunday."

We hope you have a great day and wonderful Pony Club career, Bronte.

Everyone Wants a Second Chance...



Author Diana Thurgood (left) and her sister Tiff with their horses, half brothers who are now 25 years old. Diana has written a book about Toby (right) who was rescued and got a second chance as a police horse with Tiff. He then became a Pony Club horse after retirement from the force.

“Tiff and I and our children Bree, Kye, Kelsea and Alana have been members of both Kurrajong and Lithgow Pony Clubs over the years. Our kids are now all Associate members,” Diana said.

“Tiff was a member of Manly Warringah Pony Club. When she was a teenager she visited the Mounted Police stables on a Pony Club visit and had dreams of becoming a mounted police officer after that. Many of the other officers started in Pony Club too. Tiff is our instructor and I am the president of Kurrajong PC.”

On a hot summer's day in Northern New South Wales, Mounted Police officer Tiffany Williams spotted an advertisement for a horse in the local paper – a Clydesdale-cross for a price almost too good to be true. On a whim, she and her husband drove out to see him.

Arriving at a drought-stricken farm, they bought the bargain-priced horse, but also discovered his brother, Toby – a badly neglected, ungainly horse bound for the knackery. The connection between Toby and Tiff was instant, and he turned out to be the most remarkable horse she'd ever encountered. A split-second decision sparked an astonishing journey from a brutal life in a desolate paddock to a flourishing career within the esteemed stables of the Mounted Police.

This moving true story about the extraordinary bond between horses and the humans who care for them reveals the power and the potential of a simple second chance.

WIN!

We have six copies of this new book to giveaway to members. Just email us and tell us when you or your horse has had a second chance - or what you would do if you had a second chance. Max 100 words. Add your name, age and club and email to us by **FEBRUARY 20**.
marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au

Out this month: Published by Allen and Unwin; available all good bookstores for \$32.99 if you don't win a copy!



The Centre Page

Introducing new accredited riding centres to the Pony Club® family

New Riding Centre for the NT

PCA accredited coach Kate Todd is the operator of the Northern Territory's newest riding centre offering the Pony Club experience. No Pony, No Problem!

"Bees Creek Horse Riding in Darwin is a family owned and run riding centre, offering a wide range of services for adults and children of all levels, and we are so excited to now be an accredited Australian Pony Club Centre!" Kate said.

Kate has her Preliminary Coach certificate and has coached at local Pony Clubs in Darwin for the last eight years. "Offering Pony Club rallies throughout the school term has given an opportunity for those children who do not have their own horse or pony to still be able to take part in such an amazing sport and be included in the worldwide PC community."

She also has EA and BHS (British) qualifications and a Nat Dip in Equine Management, with over 20 years' experience working in the equestrian industry, both in England and in Australia.

Clients are able to enjoy private and group lessons, trail rides for regular clients in beautiful bushland areas, beach rides, school holiday programs, camps, own a pony for a day, special events, horsemanship sessions (how to groom, saddle-up and care for a horse) and the favourite... birthday parties!

Kate and her team strive to provide a safe environment for clients, with an undercover yard and stable area, round yard and an outdoor sand arena. The horses are patient, kind, and willing, varying in size, age, and riding level to accommodate a wide range of riders.

Bees Creek Horse Riding provides a place for everyone to enjoy and learn how amazing these wonderful animals are in a safe environment with professionally qualified instruction.

beescreekhorseriding.com.au



February 2024 - 11

Pony Club Australia accredits approved riding centres around Australia to teach the Pony Club syllabus to riders without their own horses. Riders, if and when they get their own horse, are then able to join a local Pony Club. [MORE HERE:](#)

The Centre Page

Introducing new accredited riding centres to the Pony Club® family

New Riding Centre for the Gold Coast

BelleArena Equestrian Academy, at Mudgeeraba, on Queensland's Gold Coast, is the latest centre to be appointed a Pony Club Accredited Centre.

Owner Lani Harrington is a PCA Preliminary Coach and currently completing her EA Coaching qualification. She competes successfully on her Irish Sport Horses (ISH) in her passion of eventing.

BelleArena, named after her original chestnut mare ISH, Belle, offers a stunning indoor arena that she uses for lessons and clinics for both daytime and night. She attracts experienced clinicians and trainers who offer private lesson and regular group clinics covering a wide range of disciplines including dressage, jumping, eventing and liberty. Her arena is also for hire.

She also holds Equine Assisted Learning clinics as part of some of the local school's offerings. Lani volunteers much of her time at Mudgeeraba Pony Club, where she is a very popular instructor with the riders, and looks forward to signing up riders for Pony Club membership, where they ride and enjoy Pony Club on her school horses and possibly go on to get their own horses.



Pony Club Australia accredits approved riding centres around Australia to teach the Pony Club syllabus to riders without their own horses. Riders, if and when they get their own horse, are then able to join a local Pony Club. [MORE HERE:](#)

National Pony Racing Series

The TIC National Pony Racing series will culminate in the small pony and large pony finals in April. Eligible riders are those who are in the first two across the line from each of the heats run in different states over the past few months. The final will be held at Randwick (NSW) during this year's Autumn Carnival in April.

Sons of top jockey Kerrin McEvoy and Cathy McEvoy (sister of Michelle Payne) took out both races at the Sydney event. Young Rhys (pictured) took out the small pony race in Inglis colours and brother Jake went back to back wins in the large pony race.

Their father shared a video of the boys' training regime they set up themselves, which you can see on the Thoroughbred Industry Careers facebook page along with photos of the other top little riders and ponies.

[Rhys' interview - what a star!](#)

(Includes footage of the races.)



Not long until the South Australian leg of The TIC National Pony Racing Series! Register now! If you know someone who would be perfect for this, encourage them to get involved.

Calling all Pony Clubbers aged between nine and 15 years. Earn a place in the Pony Races on Adelaide Cup Day (March 10) by attending the Taster Day at Oakbank February 11. Help us spread the word. It will be loads of fun!

* We are also accepting VIC members that are close to the SA border for this race.

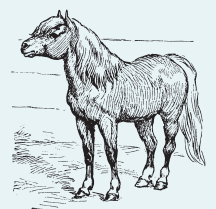
[This is the link to register.](#)

Taster days cost \$10 for riders and are open to anyone wanting to see and hear about the types of jobs available in the racing industry.

Shetland Race

Calling all starters!

TIC in partnership with Pony Club Australia and Moonee Valley Racing Club are excited to announce that it will be holding an Exhibition Shetland Race on **Saturday 23rd March 2024** during the 3 Point Motors William Reid Stakes Day at The Valley. The combined weight of rider and saddlery should not be more than 20% of the pony's weight. [For more information, and to register, please use this link to JustGo.](#)



Guide to JustGo.

for members, clubs and zones

In this guide . . .

- How members can reset their password
- How clubs or zones can reset members' passwords
- How to renew a membership
- How to purchase a membership
- How to download your membership receipt
- How to check your membership is active
- How two family members can use the same email address
- How to add credentials to your profile
- How to approve new club members
- How to approve club transfers
- How to update club roles
- How to search for a member outside your club or zone

You can download this useful,
small handbook

[from the PCA website here:](#)

Or visit www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au/ClubSource



[Membership renewal checklist 2024](#)

INTEGRITY TALK



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA



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



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Pony Club has a zero-tolerance policy to child abuse and neglect in any form.

Pony Club is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in our activities, by ensuring that everyone involved in Pony Club is educated and informed of their responsibilities to protect and look after children or vulnerable people.

Safeguarding involves many activities, including policy, education, screening, record keeping, risk management and understanding how to make a complaint or who to talk to if we are concerned.

Required learning

Committee members, Board members and coaches are all required to undertake the Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction course. Once this is done make sure you record your learning on JustGo in credentials!

Safeguarding Children & Young People in Sport Induction Course



Lodge your report or complaint here!



ASC E-LEARNING!

ANNUAL UPDATE 2024

This course is for athletes and support personnel who need to stay up to date on the latest integrity information. This course is updated annually to reflect current trends in anti-doping and broader integrity issues. A badge is issued upon completion and expires on 2nd March each year.

Pre-requisite course:
Anti-Doping Fundamentals course.



Annual Update 2024

This course is for athletes and support personnel who need to stay up to date on the latest integrity information. This course is updated annually to reflect current trends in anti-doping and broader integrity issues. A badge is issued upon completion and expires

INTEGRITY CHALLENGE!

FEBRUARY CHALLENGE

Safeguarding Children and Young People in Sport Induction Course is required learning for committee members, board members and coaches in Pony Club.
YES/NO

Talking to a child in an online space a child without a third point of contact is a breach of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy.
YES/NO

A parent or guardian taking photos of their child at a Pony Club event or activity is a breach of the Safeguarding Children and Young People policy.
YES/NO

A coach or official must have prior written permission from the parent/guardian to transport a child.
YES/NO

It can be a breach of the Child Protection laws in your state for a coach or an official not to hold a Working with Children Check (Blue Card)
YES/NO

ENTER THE CHALLENGE

