

Hitching Post

Dandenong Ranges Horse and Pony Club: Monthly Newsletter

June 2015

Duty Helpers June

- Lepore
- McKenzie
- Peele

Duty Helpers July

- Kavaliotis
- Tabak
- Wilson

Duty helpers August

- Gill
- Gosling
- Hoefler

Canteen and duties

Families on duty roster will be preparing a simple lunch menu in the morning and maintaining the canteen, along with the clear up at the end of the day.

Families will have an opportunity to watch their children ride. They can take it in turns to pop out after all the food has been prepared and the canteen is not busy.

Duties: Report to the canteen at the beginning of the day. Someone will tell you what you need to do (in the nicest possible way....)

Canteen: Prepare lunchtime menu, serve throughout the morning and at lunchtime and clean the canteen when finished including sweeping and mopping the kitchen floor.

Cleaning: Sweep club rooms and clean amenities at the end of the day.

Equipment: Help set up jumps and games equipment etc before rally and pack up these at the end of the day. If you are not in the canteen you must do this.

To assist with grounds duties speak to a committee member.

ANY help is welcome during the day even as simple as picking up sticks from the cross-country course is hugely welcome.

Important:

If you are unable to help when you have been rostered on, you must arrange to swap with someone else.

To do this, call/text either

- **Sam Cross
(0432 077 051)**

or

- **Claudia Schultz
(0423 003 294)**

Reminder that no dogs are permitted on the grounds during rallies and there is a no smoking policy at all times.

Don't forget to **book into rallies!!**

Just follow the link below;-

<http://www.dandenongranges.ponyclubvic.org.au/default.asp?Page=28791>

If you do not book in, or have not contacted the DC by phone/email at least 7 days prior to the rally date, it shall be assumed that you will not be attending the rally. Please realise that we get the very best of instructors and we pay them much more than PCAV recommends as, if we didn't, we would not have these high quality instructors. The instructor bill is over \$1,000 every rally and sometimes it is well over this amount. If we have 2 instructors with 3 riders in their group, we are, in effect, giving 6 riders a fantastic day, but we are using funds unnecessarily. We would love to spend money on improving the grounds so a saved \$250 is almost a whole new portable cross country jump.

FEEDBACK

We would love to hear any feedback, be it positive or negative. If you would like to make a suggestion or have any feedback please email the secretary or the president or alternatively you can use the suggestion box located in the club rooms. Your feedback helps to change the things you are not happy with and tells us when you like the things the club is doing for its members.

USE OF THE GROUNDS

The committee encourages members to use the pony club grounds for training purposes. There are several advantages to using the grounds for both members and the club. Riders are able to utilise the safe and secure facilities to better their riding skills and the club benefits from a steady stream of members who have an interest in ensuring that our grounds are kept safe, that security is maintained and the grounds kept in good clean condition.

Keys can be collected from any committee

member by arrangement and must be returned after you have finished using the grounds. If you do utilise the grounds, please run your eagle eye over the facilities..... Is the tractor container secure, is the door closed, are all padlocks still on all doors? Is there anything that looks wrong or unsafe? Is there a tree down? If there is any damage to the grounds, such as a broken jump or tyre ruts in the ground, please let someone know so these hazards can be fixed in good time. If there is something that can be fixed yourself please do. We are all volunteers at this club so every little helps. If you can not fix the issue, the committee members are the 'go to' people to action repairs.

THE RULES

- Always wear a helmet and correct riding boots.
- NEVER ride alone. There must be at least one, unmounted, adult with you at all times.
- Do not lend out the key, or allow access to our grounds to non-members of the club. Our grounds belong to the members and are private property, for the use only by its club members. Non-members are not covered by insurance to ride at our grounds.

These rules may be restrictive but we do not want to discover a horse or rider injured and requiring medical attention just because that rider was riding alone.



DID YOU KNOW??

Horses are not colourblind.... They have dichromatic vision (two colour vision). They perceive blue and green tones and have trouble seeing other colours such as red.

Important Information

Not Going to a Rally?

If you are not going to attend a rally you must notify our DC, Fiona Matthews, by the Monday prior to the rally.

You must also notify Fiona if you decide to leave during the rally as to gain an attendance at a rally day on your card, you must attend for half the lessons on the day according to PCAV by-laws, which means at least 2 of the 3 lessons for the day.

Please call Fiona on: 0419 336 645

ENTERING A COMPETITION?

If you wish to enter pony club competitions, you must ensure that you are graded for that type of competition and that your grading card is fully completed, up to date and that you have it with you! If you require grading you must fill in a grading request form (available in the club rooms and online when you book in), give it to Fiona and she will arrange a suitable time to be assessed. If you have any queries or need more information on how to

enter competition, what the different competitions are, including gear rules etc. please contact Fiona or speak to another committee member.

WHAT UNIFORM MUST I WEAR?

There is some confusion regarding what is acceptable uniform at rallies and out at competitions.

At Rallies: Clean jodhpurs (any colour or design), club jumper with white shirt and club tie or Polo Shirt. The long sleeved polo top can be worn over the short-sleeved polo. Socks are never to be worn over jodhpurs unless wearing gaiters/chaps.

At Competitions: Beige or white jodhpurs/breeches. Dressage uniform must be club jumper with white shirt and club tie. This is also the show jumping uniform but the Polo shirt can also be worn. Cross-country can be ridden in any top as long as it reflects our club colours.

FULL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN IF YOU ARE REQUIRED FOR PRESENTATION!!

FRESHMANS SJ and Future Rallies/Events

We have two scheduled Freshman Showjumping days on 8th and 22nd August. This is a fundraising event for the club and we will need helpers to assist in the canteen and on the gate and kids can help with the crash crew, picking up poles either before or after they have ridden their rounds.

We also have our Joint CT day with Hallam Valley PC (to be held at our club) in October and then in November, we hold our annual CT competition, for which we also require parent and member assistance to ensure the day runs smoothly. Rosters for help will be available closer to the time. Get in early if you want a specific job!

BRAGS....

Please forward all brags and 'out and about' photos to Sam Cross on samandyoz@hotmail.com so that we can share them with our members

Balnarring Dressage Day

Lena took her new horse, Spyder, out to their first competition together on 2 May 2015 with a great result in Grade 3, coming 2nd in Test 3C. Well done, Lena.



Lena and Spyder at Balnarring

Boneo Park Showjumping

Bella took her two ponies to Boneo Park on 7 July 2015 with some great results. She and Monty came 1st in the 60cm Class and she and Tricky were 3rd in the same class.... and then she took Tricky into the 75cm Class and won that too! Go Bella!



Bella with Tricky and Monty at Boneo Park

Doongala Dressage and Combined Training Day

We had a few representatives at Doongala over the course of the weekend of 30/31 May 2015. Kym with Charlotte and Lena riding Spyder, both competed in the Grade 3 Dressage and Combined Training with Lena achieving =3rd (with Kym) in Test 3A and 7th in Test 3E, placing her 5th overall in Dressage. She also placed 6th overall in the Combined Training. Kym placed =3rd in Test 3A and 4th in Test 3E, placing her 3rd overall in Dressage and she also achieved 3rd overall in the Combined Training. Well done girls!

Gemma McKenzie was our representative in Grade 5A Combined Training, riding Marey. She did a super job and made off with a nice new rug, placing 1st overall for the day. Great job!



Gemma and Marey at Doongala

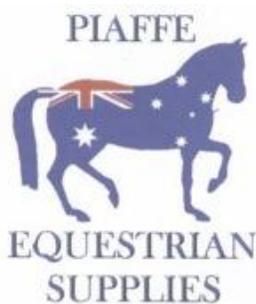
WORKING BEES

The next Pony Club Working Bee is scheduled for **8 August 2015**, from 2pm (after our Freshman SJ), and we would love to see some new faces joining the old faithfuls in assisting to keep the grounds up to scratch as winter is now well and truly established. Please bring along any equipment that may assist with the trimming of overhanging branches, weed spraying, grass cutting and moving of branches to the bonfire sites. Chainsaws, Whipper Snippers, and Sprayers are particularly helpful along with gloves for weeding purposes.

Our club is a private club and as such does not receive any assistance from the local council in the upkeep of our grounds. This is why it is imperative that everyone lend a hand and a requirement that all our members attend a minimum of 2 Working Bees a year (minimum of 2 hours at each Bee). If members fail to fulfil these requirements it may mean we have to resort to hiring a Groundsman to maintain the grounds to keep them safe for our riders and ultimately pass on these costs to our members, resulting in significantly increased membership fees. To ensure you are recorded at each Working Bee you attend (and avoid the end of year penalty for non-attendance) make sure that you Sign In each time.

ZONE RESPONSIBILITIES

All Pony Clubs are members of PCAV (Pony Club Association of Victoria) and each club belongs to a Zone within PCAV. Our Zone is Southern Metropolitan and each club within the Zone has responsibilities allocated to them throughout the year for Zone operated events (such as the recent Mini Tooradin Team Event, held in May). We rely on our members to assist with these responsibilities as there are often penalties associated with non-compliance, including fines issued to the non-complying clubs. Assisting at Zone Events is a great opportunity to learn more about Pony Club operations and the competitions that your kids enter into, In addition to this, each event that you assist at, also counts towards the minimum of 2 Working Bees that Members/Parents are required to attend throughout the course of the year. So please consider putting up your hand to help when these events are mentioned at Rallies, especially if your child will be attending the event. Committee Members can also help point you in the right direction if you don't know who to speak to and will be happy to help you if you're not quite sure what a duty entails.



Thanks to our generous sponsors:

Please consider supporting them all where possible and don't forget to mention your club

Melanie from **Piaffe** is kindly sponsoring us by donating items to raffle at our rallies and competition days. Check out her website at: www.piaffeequestrian.com or phone her on: 9754 8499. You can also Facebook her.

Our bread is kindly donated by **Bakers Delight** - Fountain Gate and our fruit and veggies are donated by **The Groovy Fruit shop** in Belgrave South

Lysterfield Produce are also extremely generous supporters of our Club.



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