

Hitching Post

Dandenong Ranges Horse and Pony Club: Monthly Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2016

Duty Helpers February

- Hoefler
- Kavaliotis
- Leonard

Duty Helpers March

- Gill
- Maker
- Tabak

Duty Helpers April

- Peele
- Callow
- Wilson

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.

It is essential that you 'Report in' to the Canteen at 9am (even if you can not help until Lessons begin, due to having young children to assist) so that we can ascertain if there is anyone missing from duty and if so arrange alternative cover.

Duties: Report to the canteen at the beginning of the day (9am). Someone will tell you what you need to do (in the nicest possible way....first to report to canteen will have first pick of duties)

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.

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.



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!!

Level 2 First Aid Course

Dandy Ranges is organising a 'Horse Orientated', Level 2 First Aid course to be held at our club, with a focus on dealing with injuries that can be sustained by horse and rider accidents/incidents. Feedback from previous courses has been excellent, so if you think you may be interested in taking part, please let a committee member know (or email Kelly, the club Secretary) to receive more information. The operation of this course is subject to numbers and places will be offered to members from other clubs, as well as our own. Dates for this course are proposed for early April (2nd or 9th), please advise the secretary if you wish to undertake this course and your preferred date (if you have one).

Future Rallies/Events



Dandy Ranges MOOMBA Show Jumping Competition

March 14th sees the club host our annual SJ competition, for which we will require parent and member assistance to ensure the day runs as smoothly as possible. Rosters will be available at the next rally and again at the March Rally. If you have a job preference get in now to secure it! We require Gate Stewards, Pencillers, Canteen Helpers, Crash Crew, Gear Check, Parking Attendants etc and even the kids can help when they are not riding, picking up poles or as runners, delivering food and drink to the judges/helpers on the day.

Entries for Moomba are **now open** on [Event Secretary](#) so enter today!

Working With Children Check (WWC)

PCAV now require all parents and adult supporters of Members to hold a WWC. If you have not yet got one and provided your details to the Club Secretary, you are at risk being turned away from a rally. Get your WWC Check started online at the following link, it's easy; <http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>.

Dandy Ranges will also be following the recommendation from PCAV that all visitors be required to sign in at each rally. You will find the Sign In Book in the Club Room. Please ensure that each adult supporter/parent signs this book before leaving for the day.

Working Bee Dates

We have set some working bee dates for the year so please indicate which dates you will be attending and mark them in your diary:-

Friday 4th March – Twilight Working Bee, 5.30pm til dark followed by a Pizza Night in the clubroom! Focus will be on clearing the fallen braches, weeding and fixing up fences along with general maintenance tasks in preparation for MOOMBA.

Saturday 30th April – 9.30am – 1.30pm (Will include setting up the clubroom for our fundraising Casino Night – tickets on sale soon!).

Saturday 10th September – from 2pm onwards.

Saturday 5th November from 9.30am in preparation for our annual Combined Training Competition.

Please bring along chainsaws, rakes, shovels, gloves, sprayers, ride on mowers and any other equipment that may be helpful in the tidying up process. More Working Bee dates will be published soon.

Tooradin Horse Trials – 28 February 2016 – Volunteer Assistance Required

We also require parent volunteers to assist at Tooradin on 28th February 2016. This is a Zone organized event (SMZ) and every club within the Zone must supply volunteers to assist on the day. Fiona has very kindly volunteered to attend the working bee on the day before the HT, however we still require volunteers to assist with the dressage element on the day. If you are able to volunteer some time and particularly if your child is competing on the day, please let us know as your assistance will be vital. This will also count towards your 4 working bee attendances required for the year so please ensure that you get your attendance logged.

Advance Notice - We will also require volunteer assistance at Mini Tooradin on 22nd May 2016.

Speed to Safety

There are 3 dates confirmed for this event, 23rd April, 4th June and 16th July 2016. For more information about Speed to Safety and where it is held check out the Southern Metropolitan Zone (SMZ) website.

BRAGS....And Out and About Photos

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

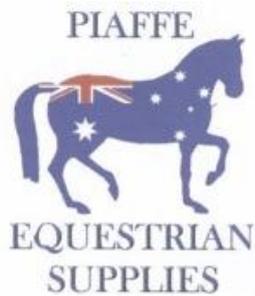
We have been severely lacking in any Brags or Out and about photos. We can not believe that all our members simply sat indoors over the school holidays instead of getting out with your horses!

We love receiving messages from you all regarding your activities and sharing them with our members. Please get snapping and emailing to give us a smile.

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 fresh Fruit and Vegetables are kindly donated by Martin at The **Groovy Fruit Shop** in Belgrave South.

Consider supporting the local community Greengrocer and don't forget to mention the Pony Club when you visit.

Our Bread is kindly donated by **Bakers Delight** - Fountain Gate and arrangements for this were made through one of our members

Lysterfield Produce are also extremely generous supporters of our club, notably providing us with showbags with gifts for our competitions

BELL REAL ESTATE

List & sell your property with
Bell Real Estate Belgrave
and we will donate **\$500**
to the Dandenong Ranges Pony Club
Think BIG - Think BELL

Please note: You must mention this offer before signing an Exclusive Authority with Bell Real Estate for this offer to be valid.
Donation will be given upon settlement of property