

# Hitching Post

Dandenong Ranges Horse and Pony Club: Monthly Newsletter

AUGUST 2015

## Duty Helpers August

- Gill
- Gosling
- Hoefler

## Duty Helpers September

- Tabak
- Harris
- Katsaras

## Duty Helpers October

- Bartolo
- Callow
- Westerveld

## 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 assist 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.



## DID YOU KNOW??

The horse eye has three eyelids—two ordinary ones and a third called the nictitating membrane— which is located in the inner corner of the eye and occasionally sweeps the eye, lubricating and cleaning it if the need arises

## 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 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> August. This is a fundraising event for the club and we will need helpers to assist in the canteen and on the gate.

We also have our Eventing Clinic style rally in September to be held at Tooradin Estate and our Joint CT day with Hallam Valley PC (to be held at our club) in October. 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 from August rally. Get in early if you want a specific job!

## STRANGLES

The Pony Club has been notified of an outbreak of Strangles in the locality. Strangles is a notifiable disease in Victoria and must be reported within 7 days to the Department of Environment and Primary Industries. Strangles is a highly contagious infectious disease of the upper respiratory tract. It is caused by a bacterium called *Streptococcus equi* (S.equi) and affects horses, ponies and donkeys. Common Symptoms include:

- rapid on-set of high temperature (39.5 to 40.5 degs),
- loss of appetite,
- discharge of yellow pus from the nose,
- symmetrically enlarged glands of the head and neck that often form abscesses,
- coughing, and
- difficulty swallowing.

The DEPI advise 'The incubation period of the disease is usually about 1 week, but may be up to 3 weeks'. And that 'Transmission occurs through both oral and nasal routes. Infection can occur via direct contact between individual horses and/or through indirect contact in several ways. Contaminated feed, water, bedding, stables, stable utensils and transport vehicles are important in the spread of infection'. They also advise 'All infected horses and their in-contacts should be placed under veterinary supervision in strict isolation with the highest possible standards of hygiene'.

If you suspect your equine friend to be affected, contact a vet immediately and isolate your horse away from other horses. Please note that the DEPI advise that 'No infected or in-contact animal should be released from isolation or veterinary supervision unless three consecutive negative swabs have been taken over a two week period'. Please adhere to the advice of the DEPI to ensure further transmission of the disease is prevented and that this outbreak remains an Isolated occurrence. For more information visit

<http://www.depi.vic.gov.au/agriculture-and-food/pests-diseases-and-weeds/animal-diseases/horses/information-of-the-control-of-strangles-in-horses>

## Wet Weather Program

Due to the large amount of rain we have had, it is anticipated that we will have a wet weather program in place for the August rally. This means that the groups will be divided into two, with younger groups riding in the morning (from 10am – 12.15pm) and the older groups in the afternoon (1pm - 3pm). Each sitting will have 2 lessons (Flatwork and Showjumping) which will be undertaken in the arenas. All riders are required to attend the Lunchtime Meeting at 12.15 so those members riding in the morning are requested to stay until 1pm and those riding in the afternoon are requested to arrive prior to 12.15. You will receive notification of all this when the groups are sent out.

## BRAGS....

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

### St Margarets Showjumping

Bella and Tricky strutted their stuff once again at St Margarets Showjumping, competing in the Improvers Class (70-80cm) and trotting away with Champion for the day. Below you can witness Tricky sporting a beautiful new rug to add to his ever growing collection!! Well done team.



## Working Bee: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August

Starting at 2pm after our Freshmans Showjumping finishes. Please bring along your gardening equipment (chainsaws, whipper snippers, shovels and rakes, gloves etc). A clean up of the clubrooms/canteen will also be undertaken at this time so any cleaning products that may help would be appreciated and gloves would be advisable.

Even the younger kids can help by finding the rabbit holes and filling them in or picking up sticks and putting them on the bonfire.

Each family is required to attend a minimum of 2 Working Bees a year (minimum of 2 hours each) to ensure our private grounds are upkept for the safety of our riders. There will be a sign in sheet in the clubrooms for each attendee to sign in/out to ensure your attendance is recorded. The penalty for non-attendance is currently \$100 and will be added to your account at the end of the year.

## Assistance Sought

The Committee have expressed interest in seeking some assistance with the Fundraising/Donations for the Pony Club. We would love anyone who has experience in these fields to work alongside our Committee Members to make our Club and its events an even greater success.

If anyone feels they can offer some ideas, knowledge or advice in these regards, please forward your thoughts to any Committee Member, either through a chat to one of the Committee during a rally or via email. Sometimes the help and advice from someone with the right experience, or knowledge, can be the difference between the success, or not, of a project or event.

## C Certificate Candidates (And Parents)

Please note that there will be an Instructor at the August Rally to talk about Nutrition for your C Certificate. Knowledge of correct Nutrition not only forms an important part of the requirements for the C Certificate but is important in keeping your Horse happy and healthy. Parents are more than welcome to attend.



*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](http://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.

**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