

# PCA News

Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter



PONY CLUB  
AUSTRALIA

March 2021

## Ride at Equitana



This month PCA will be calling for teams to take part in a competition-demonstration at EQUITANA - Australia's biggest showcase of all major equine disciplines under one roof - Page 8

## Opportunities for certificate candidates

Calling Pony Club K and B certificate candidates seeking a topic for their elective component.

Pony Club Australia has some opportunities available, particularly in IT / social media / website work.

Find out more by sending some information about yourself by email to:  
[info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

## Pony Club Insurance: who and what is covered? Page 2

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# Pony Club Insurance

## - what is covered



### Clubs:

- are you worried some activities you want to run at rallies and musters are not covered by insurance?

### Members:

- are you concerned your Club appears to be over zealous (or too lax) about what activities you can safely do at rallies and musters?

PCA wants to address some rumours and misunderstandings around insurance for Pony Club members, coaches and Club administrators.

First, while running competitions for some sports are excluded, trying them at Pony Club is not. As you know, PCA has been promoting a range of activities through the '[Discipline of the Month](#)'. They have been welcomed by clubs and are all available on the PCA website.

It has been reported that some Clubs, seeking to run these and other modified activities, have been told that they are "not covered by insurance". This is not true. Of course, appropriately skilled people visiting clubs and doing demonstrations (eg sidesaddle, harness driving) must always be supervised by Pony Club qualified coaches.

### In summary, the PCA Management Liability insurance policy has the following EXCLUSIONS:

- Harness racing/sport – where the event is run under the rules of racing and not as an equestrian event
- Racing – where the event is run under the rules of racing and not as an equestrian event
- Hunting - Pony Clubs cannot run their own hunt
- Rodeo - Pony Clubs cannot run their own rodeo
- Endurance riding - Pony Clubs cannot run their own endurance competition
- Parelli or Parelli-type Natural Horsemanship training.

**So, with racing, having a try at 2 point position at the gallop is fine; running a galloping race is not**

- Conducting a 'Ride to Time' event where participants gallop at a set speed is fine; it is not 'racing'.
- Driving a sulky is fine; running a Pony Club event of harness racing at a racetrack is not.

### Competitions:

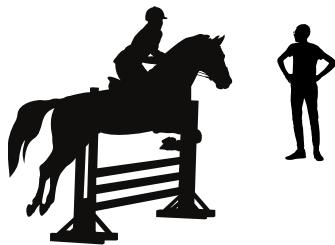
Pony Club cannot run competitive events in the sports named above. For non-Pony Club run events, riders may have to pay a day insurance fee for public liability; your personal accident cover is still in place for events like this. Similarly, non-members who enter PCA events are required to pay a public liability insurance day fee.

**Therefore, Clubs are able to run a diversity of activities under the PCA insurance.** State offices have been directly advised of current inclusions and exclusions, and have been asked to seek feedback from Clubs to help PCA clear up the confusion.

### More on the PCA insurance for club members:

Part of your Pony Club membership goes to your Personal Accident and Public Liability insurance cover. Member insurance gives 24/7 cover to members while riding and engaging in Pony Club and all riding activities. It's also a good reason for parents and other supporters to sign up as Club members to receive this cover for Pony Club related activities.

For riding centre members, insurance cover is in place for all of your riding with your PCA accredited riding centre, and any other Pony Club events you attend with your centre, such as a visit to your local Pony Club or - where permitted/accommodated by an individual club - entry in a Pony Club competition.



# Coach Update

PCA has re-designed our **Lesson Planning template** tools for coaches. [They can be downloaded for free from the Coaches area or our website, under PCA NCAS:](#)

This includes the 'fillable' version which allows coaches to download and complete the template on their screen and use the arena diagrams to sketch out their plan after printing. These are great tools for new and experienced coaches alike. We would like to thank Sarah Venamore from Pony Club NSW for her input and assistance.

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All registered coaches have been emailed supplementary notes for **Certificate levels E&D, D\*&C and C\*&K** to support them to deliver the revised syllabus. This has many features including:

- o The addition of ground work exercises.
- o The addition of information about horse behaviour.
- o The treatment of riders as horse riders AND trainers (not just riders).

Not all coaches are registered on the coach database so please pass on this email to reach as many coaches as possible. If you are a coach and did not receive these supplementary notes, please email [info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au](mailto:info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au)

## Footfalls at the walk

Last month we featured the 'Footfalls of the Horse' poster.

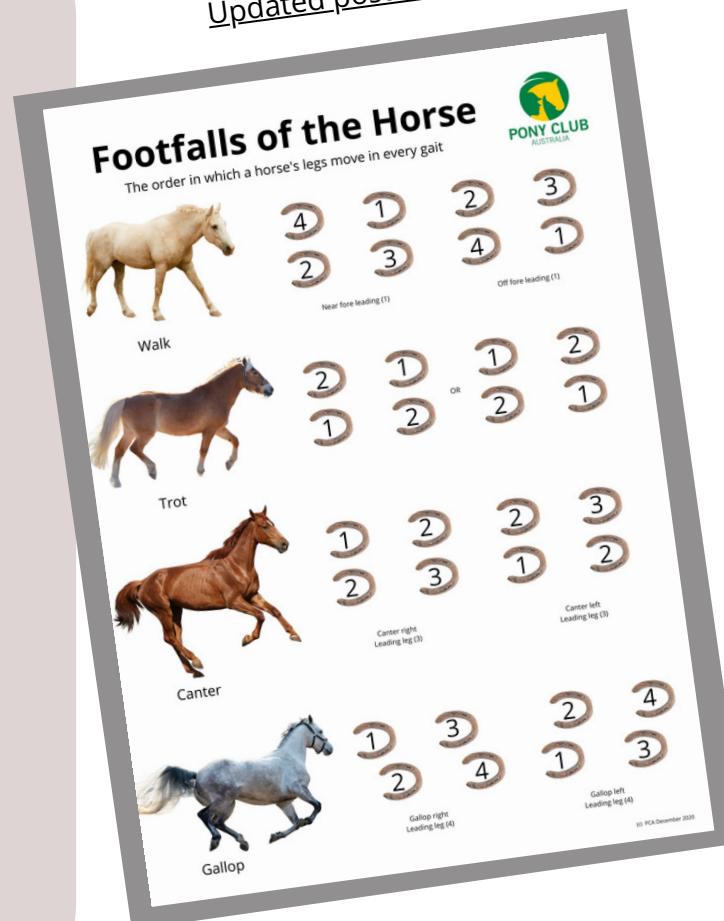
We want to clarify that in the walk and trot, the horse could step off from either foreleg. In the poster the walking and trotting horses are stepping with the left or near side first (Hoof No 1).  
ie. Walk LF, RH, RF, LH and trot LF/RH then RF/LH

If an animal chooses to step first with a right fore, then the numbers of the sequence are different.  
At the walk it would be RF, LH, LF, RH.  
And the trot would be RF/LH then LF/RH

In a Certificate test, a rider would be marked correct for starting with either left or right sequence.

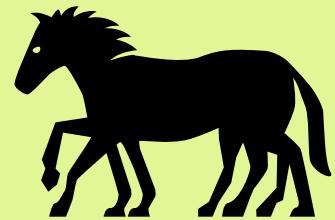
[The walk footfalls can be clearly seen in this video.](#)

Updated poster





# Walk, Ride or Run 10,000 Steps Challenge



## - Call for Team Captains -

In April 2020, we held our first 10,000 Steps Tournament. We had 33 teams take part from all over Australia, comprising 332 people who recorded 2,544,537 steps – plus lots of horses, a few cats and lots of dogs (shout out to Mutley, pictured, not a great role model for exercise! #dontbelikemutley). Participants got their steps by walking, running and riding and we gave out some great prizes.

We are going to run another tournament this year, throughout April. It's a great way to increase your physical activity, enjoy the team vibe and have fun. The tournament is open to all PCA Members – riding and non-riding. We are now calling for Team Captains to motivate teams of up to 20 people.

If you would like to be a team Captain, first sign up for a profile at:

<https://www.10000steps.org.au/accounts/login/> and then send an email to Kirrilly Thompson via centremember@ponyclubaustralia.com.au including the email with which you created your account and the name of your team. Kirrilly can then allocate you to the tournament as a team captain and team members will then be able to join your team. You don't need to have your team sorted to get started. You also don't have to take 10,000 steps each day – every step counts.



The tournament will be restricted to 50 teams only so get in quick.

To find out more about the 10,000 steps program, how tournaments run and the science behind aiming to take 10,000 steps per day (or just increasing your steps), visit <https://www.10000steps.org.au>

[Did you miss out on seeing who won all the prizes last year? You can check here.](#)



## Walking the Course, of course

Spotted recently at Holbrook Pony Club -

a Pony Club coach showing the Under 9's the Obstacle Course on foot on Sunday at the local Pony Club Annual Five Star Event.

We hear it was a fun-filled day for everyone.

**Sept 26  
-Oct 2  
2021**

# National Championships Towards Benalla 2021



## - Thoroughbred Industry Careers named as key sponsor -

Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC) is proud to announce it will continue its partnership with Pony Club Australia as the principal sponsor of the National Championships, to be held this September at the Benalla Equestrian Reserve in Victoria.

The event, which attracts the best young riders from right across the country, presents TIC with a prime opportunity to promote careers in the Thoroughbred industry and source potential trainees and future employees for the industry.

**"A new "Ride to Time" competition will be introduced to the event this year which will further strengthen the synergies between horse racing and equestrians."**

TIC Chief Executive Lindy Maurice said that directly reaching the grassroots is an imperative step towards building a strong domestic workforce for the future. "The results from the Explorer Program have been quite astonishing. We are sitting on a great reservoir of talent in Australia and TIC is taking up the reins to reach them and give them an opportunity to succeed.

"By sponsoring events like the Pony Club National Championships, we can plant the seed in young people's minds that there is a career with horses in our industry waiting for them," said Ms Maurice.

CEO of Pony Club Australia, Dr Catherine Ainsworth, said she was thrilled with the ongoing support of TIC as naming rights sponsor of its biggest event of the year. "Our connection with TIC has been borne out in many ways over the past three years. "We have seen many Pony Club members go through the TIC cadetship program. It is fantastic for our members to be able to turn their love of horses, and all of the horsemanship knowledge that they have gained during their years with us, into a career," said Dr Ainsworth.

## Exploring a Career with Thoroughbreds

In February, 23 students from all states of Australia including remote areas of the Northern Territory and Queensland arrived for the 2021 edition of the Explorer Cadetship Program, and begin their journey towards securing their dream job in the thoroughbred industry. And, quite a few are or were Pony Club members!

Run by Thoroughbred Industry Careers the Explorer Cadetship is the only entry-level education program of its kind in the world, covering both the breeding and racing sectors to give people a holistic view of the industry.

Over the last two years, 65 students have been through Thoroughbred Industry Careers (TIC) programs with an 89% retention rate in the industry.

[You can see a good overview here:](#)



One of the graduates of the Explorer Cadetship Program now working in his dream job is Leigh Allen, pictured with Gr 1 Cox Plate winner Sir Dragonet.

# The Centre Pages

Our newest PCA Accredited Riding Centre is Yass Valley Riding Centre, Manton NSW - 55 kilometres from Canberra. Welcome to the team.

If your Club receives enquiries from families wanting to join but they have no horse, we urge you to direct them to the nearest accredited riding centre to start their journey. If and when they get a horse, they transfer their membership to a Pony Club.

Similarly if there's a good riding centre / riding school near your Club, why not suggest they become accredited?



## Current PCA Accredited Riding Centres

### New South Wales

HORSETALK RIDING FARM (Jiggi)  
LITTLE RANCH HORSE RIDING LESSONS (Yorklea)  
STERNTALER EQUESTRIAN (Buchanan)  
SYDNEY RIDING SCHOOL (Duffys Forest)  
VALERY TRAILS (Coffs Harbour)  
WHITETHORN ACADEMY (Maitland Vale)  
YARA BALBA STABLES (Mandalong)  
YASS VALLEY RIDING CENTRE (Manton)

### Queensland

BRIBIE ISLAND ROAD SADDLE CLUB  
(Caboolture)  
HORSES AND HUMANS (Belli Park)  
KURSHONBROOKE LODGE (Gumdale)  
MUNDOOLUN REINS RIDING ACADEMY  
(Mundoolun)  
PENRICE PARK EQUESTRIAN (Ingham)  
PHOENIX ACRES EQUINE CENTRE (Sharon)  
WATTLE CREEK (The Gap)

### South Australia

AUSTRALIAN BAROQUE RIDING ACADEMY  
(Glenburnie)  
EQUITATION SCIENCE COACHING (Flaxley)  
GESARPARK EQUESTRIAN (Mosquito Hill)  
OAKWOOD EQUESTRIAN ACADEMY (Birdwood)

### Tasmania

JUNCTION FARM (Carrick, Tas)  
NAN'S RIDING SCHOOL (Longford, Tas)

### Victoria

AVOCA PARK (Macclesfield, Vic)  
BELTAIN PARK (Seville, Vic)  
CLASSICAL DRESSAGE ACADEMY, (Pakenham Upper)  
JOLONG PARK RIDING SCHOOL (Bangholme, Vic)  
SKYE EQUESTRIAN ACADEMY (Skye, Vic)

### Western Australia

CLAREMONT THERAPEUTIC RIDING CENTRE  
ZIA PARK (Gidgegannup, WA)

# Is this Australia's oldest Pony Club member?

The President of Two Wells Pony Club, Pentti Puro, turned 70 in December and is still a riding member of the Club.

Club secretary Kristy Pearn tells us he is the oldest riding member in South Australia (which has open age membership at every Club). Two Wells are keen to know if he is the oldest riding member in Australia.

We suspect, Kristy, he might be the oldest Pony Club member in the world!

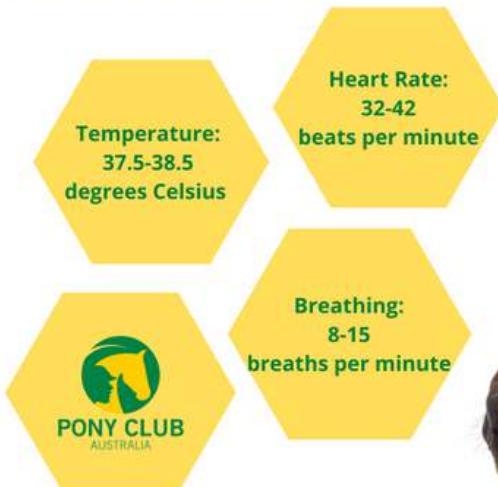
Not only does Pentii still ride, he competes, instructs and mentors young members. He competed twice at Gawler Three Day Event (now the Adelaide International), and is an EA and PC course builder, technical delegate and instructor.

Pentti is father of two riders and grandfather to five riders, all active club members. Kristy says Pentti is an inspiration to everyone at the Club - and we agree! What a great effort and role model for a healthy life of riding.

Can anyone beat this?



## Know your horse's vital signs



#alifewithhorsesstartshere

Knowing your horse's vital signs and what is normal for him will make it much easier for you to take good observations for your vet, and to know when to call the vet in the first place.

## Mounting Blocks

In our rider manuals, we recommend that riders always mount with a block. We say it makes mounting easier for you, your horse and your saddle.

Most importantly, a mounting block is best practice for horse welfare so you are not pulling the horse's body to one side every time you get on, which can contribute to one sidedness or musculoskeletal pain and discomfort.

It's not cheating, it's being considerate of your horse! Remember, land as lightly as possible in the saddle and don't use a chair or a plastic crate when mounting as they might tip over or break.





July 8-11 2021

Pony Club Australia will be having a stand at Equitana this year and will be featured on the main arena program. On Saturday 10th July PCA will be running a competition in the morning and a coaching demonstration in the afternoon. We will be inviting clubs to nominate a team for the competition. Further details soon. This will be a great opportunity to compete - for prizes - at Melbourne Showgrounds in Australia's biggest showcase of all major equine disciplines under one roof.

## More about Equitana

# Discipline of the Month

[February DOTM was Working Equitation](#) and we have seen some great photos already.

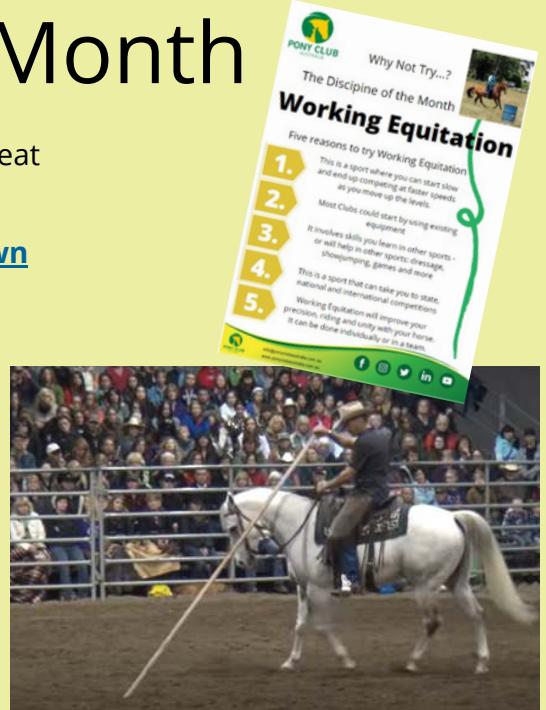
If you are keen to try it, here's a [quick and easy way to make your own garrocha.](#)

Note - a garrocha (pole) is 3-4.2m long, 32mm wide and weighs 3.2 kg.

And if you want to see an expert use it to music, you will enjoy this:

-[Jonathon Field also explains how using a garrocha helped him connect to his troubled horse. \(Note: wear your helmet\)](#)-

Discipline of the Month  
is taking a break in March  
and resumes in April



## Free Training for Beginner Coaches (eg Parents)

Why not do the Sport Australia Community Coaching General Principles course? It takes approximately four hours. The course is free of charge for people with an Australian postal address and is subsidised by the Australian Sports Commission to encourage beginner officials to undertake training. The course is aimed at first time and beginner coaches (eg. parents) and is a requirement for all our PCA NCAS Preliminary Coaches. There is assessment included within each module. Learners who successfully complete the course will receive a certificate and have their details recorded on the Australian Sports Commission's national coaching database.

[Coaching course details here:](#)

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[← COACHES AND OFFICIALS](#)

## Training for Coaches

Learning portal      The training session      Game day      Coaching children      Coach

The Community Coaching General Principles (CCGP) course has been developed to assist coaches to learn the basic skills of coaching, particularly those coaches working with children.