

Pony Racing Taking Off

More members get to ride on a racetrack

State by state, more members are getting the opportunity to ride on a racecourse, speak to professional jockeys and learn more about racing careers, thanks to this Thoroughbred Industry Careers initiative.

The most recent race was at Moonee Valley racecourse Melbourne under lights, at an evening meeting.

The next race will be in NSW during the Scone Cup on May 13. (More Page 2). Races have also been held at Doomben during the Magic Millions, Warwick Farm (Australia Day meeting) and at Murray Bridge SA during the Magic Millions 2yo sales.

TIC has some great programs to train young people for careers in the thoroughbred breeding and racing industries (or even just to see if it's what they want to do.)

tbindustry careers.com.au



ABOVE:
Conar Siphthorpe-Foster, Hastings Pony Club, won the Ariat prize for Outstanding Horsemanship. She has helped her pony Clarry recover his confidence after he lost an eye when bitten by another horse at a show two years ago.

ABOVE: The Ciaron Maher stables are one of the country's most successful. Laila Portogallo from Werribee Pony Club riding Duke rode in his colours and gave the top trainer another win! Ciaron made sure he got a photo with Laila after the race.

**PCA Board
vacancies ...p3**

**Training
Tuesdays... p5**

**Three Clubs
merge ...p8**



Watch the Moonee Valley Pony Race

From Page 1

Ten young riders from across Victoria rode under lights in an electrifying atmosphere in front of a big and adoring crowd, thanks to Thoroughbred Industry Careers.

The race was over 450m and the riders wore silks from leading owners and stables.

Ruby Davis, Benalla Pony Club, (below left in pink and blue), won the "Pick of the Yard" for best presented and received a prize from the Victorian Wakefield Club.

Jason Blackshaw (below right) from Sale Pony Club on Ezzy received a phone call from Gai Waterhouse before the race. His grandfather Kevin Langby had ridden Gunsynd, the 'Goondiwindi Grey' for Gai's father TJ Smith.



LEFT: Riders receive tips from top jockeys before the race; including Jamie Kah (in red). No whips and spurs are allowed.

Next Pony Race - at the Scone Cup

Entries are now open for an exhibition pony race at the Scone Cup race meeting in NSW on 13th May 2022.

This event is for experienced riders aged 10 – 12 years, riding ponies 12.0 – 13.0 hh. It is expected that applications will be received mainly from riders in zones close to Scone, eg 5, 6, 7, 9, 25.

Please complete this application form by following this link. Applications close 20th April.

<https://form.jotform.com/220881327988873>



Versatile ponies take to racing - here Emma Ferguson and Giggles, Werribee Pony Club, race on Friday night and then compete in dressage at Boneo Park on the weekend.

PCA Governance and 2022 Board Vacancies

The Annual General Meeting of Pony Club Australia is in May, and this is the major event on the corporate governance calendar for any company. Yes, PCA is a company and not an association. That is because it operates in multiple states.



Governance benchmarking

As a National Sporting Organisation, PCA needs to meet the highest standards of governance and report to Sport Australia on its compliance. These standards can be viewed on the Sport Australia website here.

https://www.sportaus.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/912705/Sport-Governance-Framework.pdf

Board composition

The PCA Board has 5 directors elected by member states at the AGM (each state has one vote) and 3 directors appointed by PCA on the basis of specialist skills.

PCA has a 'skills matrix' which identifies the skills needed to deliver on the objectives of PCA and the strategic plan. In accordance with best practice, PCA also has a Nominations Committee with an independent Chair. This committee reviews director applications against the skills matrix, and makes recommendations.

The term for directors, either appointed or elected, is 2 years and a director can serve a maximum of 3 terms/6 years. Details are in the [PCA Constitution on the PCA website](#).

2022 Board vacancies

Appointed director - one vacancy

Having served a maximum of 3 terms as an appointed director, sadly PCA must say farewell to **Dr Andrew McLean**. There is a vacancy for a director with a specific skill set and this opportunity has been advertised externally. We seek your assistance to find someone like Andrew! Please share the ad on the PCA website

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Pony-Club-Australia-director-vacancy-2022.pdf>



Dr Andrew McLean



Dr Juliet Skinner



Ms Marylou Hodges



Mr Jacob McLoughlin

Elected directors - three vacancies

Dr Juliet Skinner has also served 3 terms as an elected director and PCA has valued her contribution on medical matters and her Pony Club experience.

Ms Marylou Hodges resigned from the PCA board recently and has just been elected President of Pony Club Association of NSW. Congratulations Marylou.

Mr Jacob McLoughlin has completed his first term as an elected director and is eligible for re-election for a second term.

The nominations for elected director must be endorsed by a Member State and submitted to PCA by 15th April 2022. Directors do not represent their state of origin, and cannot hold a zone or state leadership role.

They must be a PCA member. The role statement for elected directors is on the PCA website

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PCA-Elected-Director-2022-Role-Statement.pdf>

We look forward to receiving nominations from members of the Pony Club Australia community.

Does Your Club have someone deserving of a Values Award?

Two more Club stalwarts have been awarded the Community Captain award. It's easy to apply for someone in your Club you want to recognise and thank.



Jane Wilson, Woonona Pony Club

Jane was awarded for successfully trialing a new initiative she called 'Riders Without Horses' which saw seven new members of various ages, ability and cultures join Woonona Pony Club to be around horses and learn about them. The program looks set to continue and expand to other nearby Clubs. The award was presented by Woonona president George MacMillan.



Jenny Maynard

Jenny was awarded for successfully helping many children to ride and care for their horses and ponies. Her latest project is helping two young brothers with autism enjoy the benefits and friendships of Pony Club, build a bond with their ponies and understand how to care for them. Her award was presented by Jason and Daniel Conner.

For more about the three Values Awards and who can receive them, see the newsletter back page or the [PCA website under Members/Awards](#)

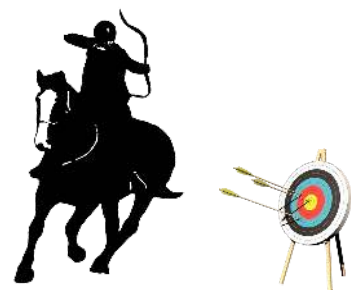
Horse Archery - ready to go

Following our popular Horse Archery webinar in March, we have approved eight more coaches to teach horse archery.

Note: Any Pony Club® coach can start taking horse archery sessions if they have read the Horse Archery Rule Book and the Discipline of the Month, watched the webinar and use suction cup arrows. [More on the PCA website under SPORTS.](#)

Welcome to Joanne Russell, NSW. Brian McCarthy, Carla Farrell and Linda Butler, Qld; Ann Olsen, Monique Govan and Anne Hollick, SA; Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Vic.

Don't forget to [email](#) or message us your photos!



***Do you follow Pony Club Australia on Facebook? No?
You are missing handy lessons like these...***

Don't wear out your brakes! *

If you leave your brakes on when you want to do anything other than stopping, they will soon become meaningless to your horse. That's because the release of pressure is the thing that tells your horse that he has done what you wanted.

If you don't release your rein aid when your horse has stopped, he won't get a chance to learn what you wanted when you applied pressure. Worse still, he will probably soon learn to ignore you.

When this happens, horses often get labelled as 'hard' mouthed. This kind of terminology blames the horse and makes riders think they need more pressure or a harsher bit. What riders usually need to do is to make sure their brakes are not 'on' when they want their horse to 'go' - or keep going!

At Pony Club Australia, we teach riders to cease their aids as soon as they get a response. This helps horses develop self-carriage, which means that the horse 'stays' at a given pace until they are asked to do otherwise. This makes for happy horses and safe riders.

It's always a good time to check your brakes! If it feels safe to do so, you can check that you are not riding with your brakes on by pushing one or both of your hands forwards to see if your horse doesn't go faster when you release your brakes.

If your horse does move off or goes faster when you release rein pressure, gently ask him to slow/stop then release and repeat until he associates the release with stopping - not going faster.

And remember to always ask first with the lightest pressure you can imagine. How will you teach your horse to respond to the slightest pressure if you never give them the chance?

Find out more about how we teach riders from beginner to advanced about pressure-release training (negative reinforcement) as well as reward training (positive reinforcement) at:

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/syllabus/>

* Other countries (and not just Pony Clubs in other countries) are noticing our posts about the [new PCA syllabus](#) which includes Equitation Science. This post (top right) on Facebook had reached almost 75,000 people with some great feedback, as of April 3.



How we think and talk about horses matters

For example, if you think your horse is being difficult, you do not leave yourself with many effective training tools.

However, if you think your horse needs some help, there are many tools and techniques that you can access to improve communication and build your horse's confidence and reliability.

We explain them in detail in the Pony Club Australia Certificate Manuals. Check out what each level covers here:

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/syllabus/>

The Centre Page



There are 26 PCA accredited Riding Centres throughout Australia, and eight more going through the accreditation process, run by some incredible people. These centres enable riders without their own horse to start their journey, even start their proficiency certificates, before moving on to a Pony Club® when they get a pony. We take a look at one talented riding centre owner, Debbie Burgemeister.

Our most recent Pony Club Accredited Centre owner, Debbie Burgemeister from Bonogin Valley Horse Retreat, last month travelled the 1800km journey from the Gold Coast to Ballarat for the Polocrosse National Championships with the Queensland Women's Masters Team.

Keeping it in the family and travelling with her, was her horse chiropractor father Rob, and Pony Club® riding daughter, Keira. Our wonderful network of Pony Clubs® across Australia helped out with a stop along the way at Jerilderie Pony Club to give the horses (and driver) a rest.

Debbie drove their sturdy horse truck, which she joked driving was an achievement, especially since the truck has been reliable since she started driving it in her 20s!

Keira, 12, took her strapping duties very seriously and was up early to ensure water and feeds were done each day. Keira is herself an accomplished rider, competing at Pony Club® across gymkhanas, showjumping and polocrosse.

Debbie is also an accomplished Horse Archery coach and has helped out with both polocrosse and horse archery lessons at her local Mudgeeraba Pony Club. It is wonderful to see the diversity of disciplines that Debbie has been able to bring to the region. She is a keen supporter of the adult riders at the club, as well as offering an amazing range of activities to keep the younger members keen. She is also a Troop Drill coach extraordinaire!

The Championships were held March 28 - April 3 2022. Debbie and the Queensland Ladies Masters Team were runners-up to NSW. Replays can be seen free online at <https://vimeo.com/event/1935852>

You can read more about the [PCA accredited riding centres on our website](#).

- Sally Wiseman, PCA Participation and Development Manager



Debbie Burgemeister and her polocrosse mount 'Covergirl'.



Debbie, Keira and father Rob on their 1800km journey



The Queensland Women's Masters Polocrosse team.

TALK TO YOUR PONY CLUB® COACH

CHECK THE SYLLABUS

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/PCA-Syllabus-updated-December-2020.pdf>

BUY A MANUAL

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/How-to-make-a-PCA-Shop-purchase-Feb-2022.pdf>

ENROL FOR EXTRA E, D, D* AND C LEVEL CERTIFICATE RESOURCES ON THE PCA ACADEMY

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/members/pca-academy/>

CHECK THAT YOU ARE READY

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Are-you-ready-for-E-Assessment.pdf>

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Are-you-ready-for-your-D-assessment.pdf>

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Are-you-ready-for-your-DStar-assessment.pdf>

LOOK AT WHAT YOU WILL BE ASSESSED ON

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/certificate-assessments/>

DO A PRACTICE TEST FOR E, D AND D* LEVEL CERTIFICATES ON THE PCA ACADEMY

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/members/pca-academy/>

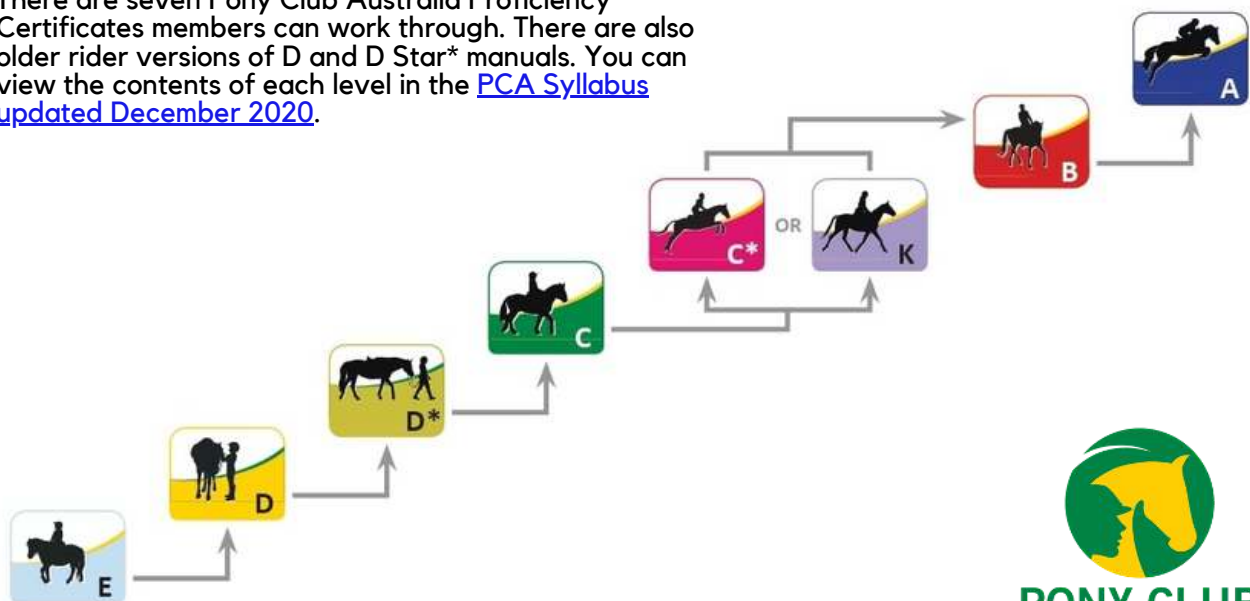
BOOK AN ASSESSMENT WITH YOUR CLUB



Step-by-Step Guide To Complete Your PCA Certificate (with links)



There are seven Pony Club Australia Proficiency Certificates members can work through. There are also older rider versions of D and D Star* manuals. You can view the contents of each level in the [PCA Syllabus updated December 2020](#).



Find out more at ponyclubaustralia.com.au/certificate-manuals/



New Club Takes Out Shield

What do you do when two clubs in your Zone lose their grounds, and one more has reducing numbers but great facilities? You merge into one strong club, with a new name!

Thanks to strong leadership, this three-Club merger in Central Zone, Victoria, has kicked off the new year with successful rallies, and even a win in the annual Central Zone Lowden Shield.

Oaklands, Sunbury and Tullamarine Clubs have changed their respective red, blue (with yellow sash) and tan (with dark brown sash) jumpers for a blue and green top, and now meet at the Greenvale Equestrian Reserve, next to Woodlands Park in Greenvale, and have taken the name Woodlands Pony Club. They are now the biggest club in this Zone.

The Lowden Shield provides competition in flat (show) riding, games and handymount.



ABOVE: The new Woodlands Pony Club took out the Zone's prestigious Lowden Shield last month, at their first try.



RIGHT: The merger of three Clubs is forging new friends and team mates.

Why Not Try:

A Musical Ride for 12?



Forty years ago, Melbourne staged a Military Tattoo and one of the highlights was a musical ride by the Victorian Mounted Police.

These 12 officers and horses make it look easy as they ride one-handed and include criss-crossing, wheels and lateral work. Why not try a large musical ride at your next rally or muster?

[The ride starts at the 45 minute mark here:](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3z0NgZy_JI)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3z0NgZy_JI

Musical Rides featured as a [PCA Discipline of the Month](#) - you can check it out here for ideas along with all the other suggestions for different sports to try.

Many police forces displayed musical rides at agricultural shows, and some continue to this day.

Values Badges: We value ALL you do

Pony Club is not just about riding, ribbons and competition.

We are excited to announce there is now a way members can be recognised for your interest in - and work for - the community, creating sustainable solutions and caring for horses and others. These awards are not just for riding members, but all members.



Community Captains have the ability to make others feel safe, valued and included. They are ambassadors for the community spirit that unites the international Pony Club movement. The PCA Community Captain recognition award is based on a specific project, activity or innovation. Recipients will show an extraordinary effort above and beyond what would ordinarily be expected of a Pony Club Australia member.



Pony Club Australia is the longest running equestrian organisation in Australia. Sustainability Champions undertake projects which ensure the long-term environmental and/or social sustainability of Pony Club. The recipient's impact and achievements will be demonstrated through a specific project, activity or innovation. The PCA Sustainability Champion award will recognise extraordinary efforts above and beyond what would ordinarily be expected of a Pony Club Australia member.



The Welfare Warrior recognition award is awarded to PCA members who put the horse's health and wellbeing needs before their own on a notable occasion, or delivered a project that addresses the mental and physical aspects of horse welfare and wellbeing across one or more of the following areas: nutrition, health, environment, behaviour and human interaction.

[CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code with your mobile device to nominate a special PCA member today.

