



**PONY CLUB**  
AUSTRALIA

**NOVEMBER 2023**

# PCA News

**Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter**

## **Mounted Games Galore!**

## **National Champs snapshots**

**The dos and  
definitely don'ts  
of using a whip**



## **PCA Awards: Meet the winners**



**PONY CLUB**  
AUSTRALIA

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[www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au](http://www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au)



# Nationals 2023

## PCA Nationals results UPDATE (November 1, 2023)



We thank all clubs, competitors and their supporters for their patience while they wait for some of the results from the Nationals held in WA earlier this month.

Dressage and Showman are the only remaining events to have results finalised due to the high volume of entries - and hence videos - to be judged. Showjumping and Tet placings are yet to be announced. There were 500 video entries over the various disciplines! The Pony Club WA staff and the judges are working flat out to bring you the results.

The upside is, how great for so many riders to have the chance to ride at Nationals via state hubs, and the chance to enter via video!

It is hoped to announce the state which has won the Roger Braham Perpetual Shield for the 2023 Nationals by the end of the week. Stay tuned via our socials.



These five happy Serpentine Pony Club (WA) members celebrated a wonderful Nationals at the presentation night, in their state uniform.

[You can watch videos of entrants here:](#)



Left and below: Members of the Tasmanian National Tetrathlon team also enjoyed other activities while in Perth.

[Tetrathlon results are here:](#)



## Cover photo

A special bond is obvious here between Amelia Gordon, Serpentine Pony Club, and her pony Aryline Bobby Sox (is he smiling?). They were competing in Sub Junior Dressage, Sub Junior Showman and Sub Junior Quiz at the Petstock Pony Club Australia Nationals Championships in WA in October. Amelia was also a finalist in the PCA Awards, for Best Achievement by a Rider 12 and Under. *PHOTO courtesy of Rebecca De Vries Photography*





DREAM BELIEVE ACHIEVE

Jandowae Pony Club member Lara Coombe competed at the Pony Club Nationals held in Perth, WA with her two homebred and trained horses Sting and Trivago. She was extremely overwhelmed to have won the Junior Eventing Championships on Sting with Trivago placing third.

The highlight was teaming up with The Caves Pony Club rider Emily Geddes and her homebred horse Alligator, who placed 4th individually, to win the overall Eventing Team Championships. From home base, Brett & Lara travelled 9600kms – 7 days to get there to Perth, 8 days there & 7 days to get back home – a huge achievement to travel horses that distance with both horses arriving home in great shape.

Lara would like to thank Jandowae Pony Club for their support and she looks forward to representing the Club and Zone 5 in the future. She also thanked the Australian Sports Commission for their much appreciated funding towards her trip.

Both girls are pictured here. [Eventing results](#)





LEFT: Harrison and Hector Brennan and Emily Hudak of the Vic quiz team meet former PCA Patron and Equitation Science guru Andrew McLean at the Nationals in WA.

[Quiz results](#)



There were plenty of fun activities at the mounted games hub, and the indoor school at Benalla was put to good use in the wet conditions.



ABOVE: The WA Games team members reversed the trip, travelling to Benalla in Victoria for the Nationals Games hub. It was worth the trip, with the senior team taking the championship.



Mounted Games Junior Teams winner was NSW - and how happy does this team look!

Michelle Newham from Pony Club Australia (left) congratulates the team on their win.

[Mounted Games results](#)



# International Mounted Games Exchange ~ Fun AND Games

The International Mounted Games Exchange is an annual competition for PC riders under the age of 16yrs,

Not long now! We have been enjoying a feast of top quality mounted games events in Australia at the moment and it is set to continue with this popular event, hosted this year in Australia by NSW. You can follow the action on the dedicated Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/PCAIMGE>

## Event highlights:

Nov 7 - 8 International teams arrive  
Nov 9 - 17 Sightseeing, activities, teams bonding. This includes visiting the Australian Institute of Sport, climbing the Sydney Harbour Bridge, and visiting Willinga Park Equestrian Centre.

**Sat Nov 18 - Competition Day**  
**@ Londonderry Pony Club.**

**COACH**  
Dan Foster  
Orange Grove PC - WA

**TEAM MANAGER**  
Niree Weybury  
Woodlands PC - VIC

**RIDERS**

Keira Dowling  
Swin Valley  
Horse & Pony Club - WA

Ryan Bissicks  
Yarrambat PC - VIC

Ashlea Rees  
Birralee &  
Districts PC - TAS

Denver Vivian  
Darwin PC - NT

Charlie MacKenzie  
Rylstone PC - NSW

**Good Luck!**

**Come and watch and cheer the teams on!**



Denver Vivian is 14 and from Humpty Doo, Northern Territory. She is a member of Darwin Pony Club. A keen polocrosse player as well, she is delighted to be riding for Australia.



# The 2023 PCA Awards



## Congratulations!

## to our WINNERS

### Rider 12 years and under



**Chloe Benis**  
Tooradin Dalmore  
Pony Club VIC



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**Gala Equine**




### Rider 13-17 years



**Emily Hudak**  
Seville Pony Club  
VIC



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### Rider 18-25 years



**Emily Newberry**  
Mooloolah Pony  
Club QLD



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### Rider Open Age - over 25 years

**Winner**

Best Achievement - Rider over 25 years

**Jasmine Tohill**  
Denmark Pony Club  
WA





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# The 2023 PCA Awards



## *Congratulations!*

## to our **WINNERS**

### Young Coach of the Year

### Coach of the Year

**Jayde Kirkham**  
Macedon Pony Club  
VIC

**THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS**  
Australia

Sponsored by

**Kasey Manolini**  
Albany Pony Club  
WA

Sponsored by  
East Coast Equine Construction

### Volunteer of the Year

### Pony Club Alumnus

**Robyn Gordon**  
Serpentine Horse and Pony Club WA

Sponsored by **dmac** apparel

**Todd Hinde**  
Bega Pony Club

Australian Olympic showjumping team chef d'equipe; appointed FEI Jumping Director in 2023 (first Australian)

### Riding Centre of the Year

### Pony Club of the Year

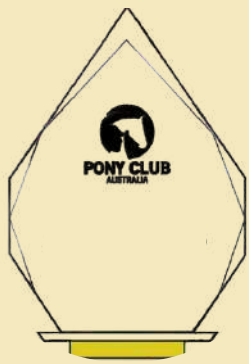
**Little Ranch Horse Riding**  
Josie Richardson  
Yorklea NSW

Sponsored by **SONARAY EQUESTRIAN**  
Arena & Stable Lighting

**Pony Club of the Year**  
Canberra Riding Club  
Pony Club ACT

Sponsored by **Just Gates**





# The 2023 PCA Awards



## Volunteer of the Year

Does your club have a volunteer like Bill? Nominate them next year for a PCA Volunteer of the Year Award.

One of our Volunteer of the Year finalists, Bill Sadleir from Ravenshoe Pony Club, wants to pass on a message:

"To the finalists and all the other nominees/volunteers, I think the best thing out of this is that volunteers have been noticed for just being there doing the things that need to be done.

"Well done to all of you; as you all may have noticed, without volunteers there's a lot of jobs that probably would not be done and I believe that clubs would not survive without the hard work of volunteers such as yourselves.

"This event shows that people care about what we do as volunteers and the biggest prize is not the trophy or certificate, but the fact that we were noticed and appreciated and that's a win in my book. Congratulations to everyone involved.

- Bill Sadleir  
Ravenshoe Pony Club

Part of his nomination by Ravenshoe included this:

*Bill displays his dedication to Pony Club values with his tireless efforts in fund raising and improving the environment at the club. He spends endless hours on the tractor and has made four kms of walking and trail riding tracks around the grounds. He has planted native trees, made the tracks and removed masses of weeds and has transformed what was weed infested wasteland into parkland, the includes fire pits, picnic tables and bbq areas along the now attractive creek banks.*

*Bill also splits the wood from fallen trees on the grounds which he sells and all the proceeds raise money for the club, in total around \$5000 so far.'*

With volunteers like this, no wonder Pony Clubs thrive.



[The 2023 winners announcement](#)

[How did they do it? Read the winning nominations](#)



**WATCH NOW**



**READ NOW**



## Horses and ponies prone to laminitis require a safe forage-based diet

ALL horse and pony diets should be forage based. ALL diets should contain an absolute minimum of 1.5% of bodyweight of forage. And ideally they should be fed 2% of their bodyweight in forage per day.

- For a 300 kg pony this is 6 kg per day.
- And for a 500 kg horse, it is 10 kg/day.

BUT, in spring, for those prone to laminitis, their main source of forage, their pasture, can become unsafe for them to graze.

Which means we need to find alternative, SAFE sources of forage! If we don't feed enough forage, serious problems like gastric ulcers, colic, dehydration, boredom, stereotypical behaviours, changes in gut bacterial balance, reduced immune function and the destruction of your trees and fences with wood chewing behaviour may occur.

**So it's critical that we feed enough forage!**

Dr Nerida McGilchrist PhD

### MultiCube Teff & Lucerne Hay Cubes

MultiCube Teff & Lucerne Hay Cubes provide the perfect forage species and forage form variety for your laminitis prone horses and ponies.

Low in non-structural carbohydrates (something that is regularly tested), the cubes are a laminitis safe forage and are excellent for creating environmental enrichment and encouraging natural foraging behaviours.

Plus with their longer stem fibres they will create more chewing and beneficial saliva production than shorter chopped chaffs.

They can easily be soaked for older horses or horses with poor teeth.

**Just for PCA Members!**

**WIN**

**2 x Major Prize Packs:**  
Duncan Equine Paddock Feeder  
2 Bags Teff & Lucerne Cubes & MultiCube Cap

**2 x Small Prize Packs:**  
1 Bag Teff & Lucerne Cubes & MultiCube Cap

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Entries close 31.10.2023  
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## MultiCube competition

In October we ran a competition for MultiCube prize packs.

The lucky winners are:

### Major prize pack

Kassie Pontifex, Gympie PC QLD  
Jemima Fitz, Mansfield PC VIC

### Small prize packs

Harry Downer, Onkaparinga PC SA  
Darcy O'Neill, Grafton PC NSW.

Thanks to MultiCube for your support. Winners, MultiCube will be in touch.

# Short Online Courses on Horse Health

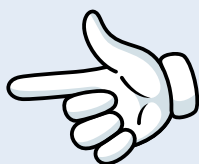
We welcome TBA Learning as a new sponsor of the Young Coach of the Year in the 2023 PCA Awards.

TBA Learning, from Thoroughbred Breeders Australia, provides a series of free, short online courses with assessment tasks on horse health and husbandry.

Participants receive a certificate of completion for each course.

These free courses will be particularly useful for general information and revision for coaches and riders C\*/K and above.

<https://www.tbalearning.com/start>





# What's been happening on social media



WELFARE issues are discussed each week, including this one.

Using terms like 'naughty', 'lazy' or 'stubborn' to describe a horse's unwanted behaviour demonstrates a lack of understanding by the rider or handler.

Using such terms shows the person is not a knowledgeable horse person who recognises the part their behaviour plays in the horse's behaviour.

Horses need clear and consistent aids and consistent expectations for their behaviour. If aids are unclear (for example, using the same aid to ask for two different things) or behavioural expectations are inconsistent (for example, if you reward a behaviour one day and then punish it the next day), the horse's world becomes unpredictable and scary.

In this situation, the horse is unsure which behaviour you want when you apply an aid or which behaviour will lead to them receiving a reward or being punished. This leads to confusion and worry in the horse, who then tries to solve it first by flight response (running out, running backwards, trying to escape), then by fighting and finally by giving up.



This is explained more in the rider certificate manuals and in the PCA Horse Welfare Policy

<https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/about-us/resources/>

Or go to the Horse Welfare Policy under Policies and Risk Management on the PCA website.

\* You should of course always have your horse checked by a vet to ensure pain or injury is not causing performance issues.

## Bushfire Advice

Diamond Creek Fire Brigade (VIC) advises: 'Don't write your phone number on your horse's hooves so you can be found quickly after a fire - write it on their bodies. No-one wants to approach a stressed horse and look at its hooves.'

And a reminder to never leave halters or rugs on horses if fire is threatening, as they will burn.'

This encouraged comments to:

- use a commercial stock marker in a colour that contrasts to your horse's colour (from most feed stores)
- Not allow stock out onto the road.



Stay safe everyone. Have a bushfire plan.



# IMGA World Championships

International Mounted Games Association



**Olly Kohn, Vines Pony Club, riding for Australia**



World Champions - they did it! Congratulations to the two Australian teams at the IMGA World Mounted Games Championship, held at Werribee Park National Equestrian Centre in October.

The Under 18 team are the new world champions! Although not a Pony Club event the riders are all Pony Club members and many of the organisers and volunteers were part of the Pony Club family too.

Well done to riders and supporters:

### Junior team: (top pic)

- Taleha Urszulak & Roany - Woonoona Pony Club - NSW
- Bree Mackenzie & Midget - Rylstone Pony Club - NSW
- Gabe Smith & Blu - Phillip Island Pony Club - VIC
- Rohan Smith & Specky - Wooroloo Horse & Pony Club - WA
- Aaron Suvaljko & Axel - Serpentine Horse & Pony Club - WA
- Reserve - Ryan Bissicks & Tucker - Yarrambat Pony Club - VIC
- 2nd Reserve - Charlie Mackenzie Rylstone Pony Club - NSW
- Coach Lauren Bingley, Wamboin NSW
- Team Manager Ben Logue Aberdeen NSW
- Second in the U18s to New Zealand and third to England.



**Gabe Smith (left) and Aaron Suvaljko. Aus**

### The Open team (2nd pic) came third, with the win going to England and second place to Ireland. Aussies were:

- Georgia Bissicks & Darcy - Yarrambat Pony Club - VIC (at right)
- David Gardiner & Baby Ester - Circular Head Pony Club - TAS
- Grace Perkins & Watt - Stratford Pony Club - VIC
- Simon Rodgers & Floss - former PC member, Mentone Pony Club VIC
- Olly Conn & Dee Dee - Vines Pony Club, NSW
- Reserve - Annie Herzer & Mizzy - Avon Valley Showjumping & Pony Club
- Coach Tim Ling, VIC and team manager Janet Teague, VIC



**Georgia Bissicks**



WELFARE issues are discussed each week, including this one.

Whips and crops can serve a very useful purpose, but they can also be misused. The whip has a role as an aid to encourage the horse forward, in conjunction with the leg aid, and in groundwork as an extension of the rider's arm.

Here is a quick guide:

## WHEN can you use a whip?

- In competition and training if the discipline rules permit.
- When doing groundwork, as an extension to your arm (eg step back)  
(National Gear Rules)
- While lungeing (a lunge whip only)
- When loading a horse on a float or truck, as a guide to move their legs (Horse Welfare Policy)

## WHEN can you NOT use a whip?

As punishment. Use of the whip as punishment will not be effective unless it is applied at the onset or immediately after the unwanted behaviour. Punishment only frightens and confuses the horse. It also weakens your partnership with your horse and increases your risk of having a riding accident.

## It is a breach of the PCA Horse Welfare Policy to:

- Use a whip or other item to hit an unriden horse, other than as a guide when loading a horse on a float/truck and in ground work exercises, or using a lungeing whip whilst lungeing.
- Use a whip or other item to hit the head of a horse.
- Use the whip to strike a ridden horse:
  - # more than twice in succession
  - # after the last effort in a competition
  - # with an overarm action (eg. using the whip in the right hand to strike the left flank or shoulder)
  - # to vent the rider's or coach's temper
  - # on any area of the body other than behind the rider's leg or down the shoulder of the horse.

## WHERE can you use a whip?

- When riding, you can only use a whip behind the rider's leg or down the shoulder of the horse. (PCA Horse Welfare Policy)

## WHAT sort of whip can you use?

- Whips, crops, and racing whips must have a flap, and whip loops must be cut off to avoid entanglement. The whip length and style for the various disciplines is all in the PCA National Gear Rules. A lungeing whip has a lash not a flap, which is allowed. A hacking cane for showing does not need a flap.

## For more information:

Visit the PCA website under ABOUT/Policies and Risk Management for the [full PCA Horse Welfare Policy](#)

[The National Gear Rules](#) are on the PCA website under SPORTS/National Gear Rules. They are updated annually.



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# Around The Grounds



Thanks to a successful Melton City Council grant application, Melton Pony Club has been able to purchase a number of new body protectors. With body protectors being mandatory for some disciplines, this grant has allowed the club to offer cross country training/lessons to ALL members once again, and not just those who owned their own body protectors. It was great to see the kids excited to get out there in the afternoon with the new body protectors on.



Melton Pony Club also enjoyed some Halloween fun at their recent rally - check out this scary spider in its web, right.



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## Coming events

### Western Australia

Dec 2 - Taster Day @ Serpentine Horse & Pony Club

Register via this link:

<https://pca.justgo.com/workbench/public/events?ref=8AE6B3711A30302CD97DBCA8364D9DE59A60B1D4>

Dec 9 - Race Day Ascot Racecourse

### Queensland

Nov 5 - Taster Day West Toowoomba

Register via this link:

<https://pca.justgo.com/workbench/public/events?ref=9CB8504F35C73DC0FB3E5577138C0A79FEB26574>

Jan 6 - Race Day @ Gold Coast Turf Club

### South Australia

Taster Day date and venue to be confirmed.

Register an Expression of Interest via this link:

<https://form.jotform.com/232058540325854>

Mar 11 - Race Day, Adelaide

### New South Wales

Jan 26 - Race Day Warwick Farm racecourse Sydney.

More details to come.

Add a from Magic Millions

**Pony race moonee valley.**

*Moonee Valley Photos: Darren Tindall Photography*



*Moonee Valley: Excitement builds!*



*Moonee Valley - pre-race talk as the young jockeys get their silks.*

### What will happen at a taster day:

The next one is in WA so we will use that as an example. Note: You can enjoy a taster day without having to 'sign up' to race at a race meeting.

Those travelling long distances are able to camp at the venue - Saturday 2nd December at Serpentine Horse and Pony Club.

Around 25 - 30 riders will be selected for further training on Sunday 3rd December in Perth - TIC will endeavour to let those riders know as soon as possible on the Saturday if they are required for the Sunday or not so they can plan to camp another night or travel home.

Serpentine Horse and Pony Club grounds will also be available for camping the following Friday night 8th December, for those riders who will be participating in the Pony Races on Saturday 9th December at Ascot Racecourse.

And remember, everyone of all ages and abilities are welcome to come to the TASTER DAY and learn new skills.

TIC has invited Ranvet to do a horse health talk which is a fantastic education for everyone. Participants will also learn about careers in the thoroughbred industry and experience the mechanical horse. We look forward to seeing you in WA in December!

Moonee Valley Photos: Darren Tindall Photography, Thoroughbred Industry Careers, and PCA



Clockwise, from top left:  
The riders dressed in their silks get snapped with champion jockeys Glen Boss and Michelle Payne. Well done yet again to Lindy Maurice and her team at Thoroughbred Industry Careers on a day the riders will never forget.

Best presented in one race went to Emily Wagstaff and Tempo, (No. 7) Stratford Pony Club, in Inglis colours in the 'small' pony race.

Robert Scobie (4) from Mildura-Alcheringa Pony Club, wins the 'big' pony race at Moonee Valley riding Darcy, in the colours of Annabelle Neesham Racing; and Robert receives his trophy from legendary jockey and TIC National Pony Racing Series Ambassador, Glen Boss.

Perfect position - in Magic Millions colours, Josephine Salanitri (2) and Phantom from Riddells Creek Pony Club.

Having the best time - Sigrid Black (6) and Bam Bam, Woodlands Pony Club riding for Yulong Stud, small pony race.



Left: Small Pony category runner-up, Blake Stanley of Benalla PC receiving his sash from Melbourne Cup-winning jockey and TIC National Pony Racing Series Ambassador, Michelle Payne. The race was won by Mia-Rose Cornish, Rochester PC.



# The Centre Page



## Little Ranch Horse Riding Josie Richardson Yorklea NSW



Sponsored by



Congratulations to Little Ranch Horse Riding Lessons (Josie Richardson) of Yorklea, NSW who took out the PCW Riding Centre of the Year last week.

Josie, a former member and office bearer and coach of Casino Pony Club, runs her centre as a feeder group for Casino Pony Club. Once children have their own pony she encourages them to transfer their membership to Casino Pony Club, however they can still attend rally days while a member of the riding centre.

Josie is very flexible with her delivery of the Pony Club program. She employs five Pony Club members to assist her and holds group and individual lessons at her riding school. She will travel to those who have purchased their own horse so they can have lessons on their own pony and ensure that they are feeling safe and confident to then attend 'regular' Pony Club.

In conjunction with Casino Pony Club Josie holds school holiday camps where she will make many trips to transport in enough horses for those that don't have their own. Josie offers the delivery of PCA syllabus and her riders can work through the certificates.

Do you know a riding centre operator who may like to become accredited? [More on the PCA website.](#)

### Accredited Riding Centres

Since 2019, PCA has been accrediting suitable riding centres to be able to deliver the Pony Club experience to riders who do not have their own horses.

If and when these riders get their own horse, they are able to join a nearby Pony Club. Many of these centres are run by NCAS Preliminary or Level 1 coaches. There is now a total of 31 riding centres in NSW (8), QLD (11), TAS (4), VIC (5), and WA (3).





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**\* Ranvet Junior Ambassador  
and Glenorie Pony Club rider  
Skye McKewin**



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# Game Plan

A tool to make running your club easier!

## What is Game Plan

Game plan is a tool aimed at helping clubs to understand where their management could improve and provides resources to help build capacity and operational strength.

## Do I have to do it?

Game Plan is entirely optional for clubs however from committee to committee it is a way of helping to retain club knowledge and also help with planning for the future.

## Game Plan Information Webinar

Didn't get a chance to jump on our Game Plan Information Webinar? Don't worry we recorded it for you! Scan the code to find the webinar.



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