



Pony Club International Alliance

Australian Heads Pony Club International Alliance

The Chair of Pony Club Australia, Heather Disher, is the new Chair of the Pony Club International Alliance.

Ms Disher was voted in at the recent online meeting of the seven member countries. Australia was due to host the representatives of the UK, USA, Canada, Hong Kong, New Zealand and Ireland here earlier this year, but COVID-19 put this on hold.

Outcomes from the meeting included:

- The plan to form an international Youth Advisory Committee
- Harmonisation of the international Pony Club rider syllabus which will see other countries adopting the innovation in the PCA syllabus, introduced in 2019. This syllabus has added focus on equine welfare and equitation science
- Aligned marketing campaigns to promote the benefits of Pony Club membership and a life with horses
- Applying the digital experiences of the last six months to increase international on-line competition and educational opportunities

Ms Disher said there were huge benefits being a part of the international alliance, including the sharing of information and the holding of international competitions, which has seen the growth of disciplines such as Tetrathlon* (and hence Modern Pentathlon) and Quiz by providing more international opportunities for Australian riders and coaches.

“In a normal year, Australia sends around three teams of riders overseas to compete in show jumping, mounted games and tetrathlon, giving our talented young riders international experience at an early age,” she said.

The first Meeting of the Pony Club International Alliance was held in Canada in 2005. Australia will chair the meetings for the 2020-2022 period. It is hoped that there will be a face to face meeting of PCIA in Australia in 2021.

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The Australian Government through Sport Australia recognises Pony Club Australia to develop Pony Club in Australia. The financial support of Sport Australia is gratefully acknowledged.

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- Tetrathlon comprises four sports from the pentathlon - shooting, swimming, riding and running (no fencing)

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