



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

MARCH 2024

PCA News

Pony Club Australia Monthly Newsletter



New year, new certificate

Competition for clubs: WIN a Mounting Block

Are you doing it for Dolly? #BeKind

Horse book winners

10 reasons to walk your horse



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www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au



New year, new certificate?

- Each certificate is a prerequisite for the next one. Only the E is not compulsory (but is recommended) to move up the ladder.
- The D and D Star certificates have alternate versions for older members
- The C certificate is recommended as the baseline for all members and to ensure the rider has a good foundation of skill, safety and horsemanship.
- Team selection for many state and national teams requires a certain level of certificate (often C, or B level for some international teams)
- Each certificate gained represents a tangible achievement, boosting rider confidence and ability, and motivation to progress on their equestrian journey.
- The A certificate represents the pinnacle of achievement. This is being updated and will be available early 2024.



[Here's where you can check if you are ready for your next certificate](#)



[Here's instructions on how to order a certificate manual via JustGO](#)

Tetrathlon rule amendments

Some of the rules for Tetrathlon competition, particularly national championships, have been changed for competition in 2024 by the National Tetrathlon Committee. This committee is made up of representatives from the states.

[You can find the Tetrathlon Rule book and Handbook on the PCA website here.](#)

Or look on the website under Sports/Competition Rules



Cover photo

PHOTO: Along with showjumping, eventing is a very popular discipline enjoyed by many Pony Club members because it has three phases - dressage, cross country and showjumping. *PCA Survey p6*



2024 International Teams announced

Congratulations to the two international Tetrathlon teams who will be heading to Ireland and the UK on the 23rd July for three events are:

Female team -

- Darcy Miller - Leven PC TAS
- Emma Wiese - Dryandra PC WA
- Anatasia Topalov - West Toowoomba PC QLD
- Isabelle Cox - Esperance PC WA
- Chloe Leen - Drysdale Leopold PC VIC
- Reserve - Lilly Bright - Katherine HPC, NT

Team Coach - Nikita Mawhirt WA

Male team -

- Cohen Wade - Stratford PC VIC
- Amos Vagg - Salt Ash PC NSW
- Bailey Elias - Tasmania Pony & Riding Club TAS
- Daniel Wiese - Dryandra PC WA
- Kian Blanchard - Charlton PC VIC
- Reserve - Campbell Black - Wallangarra PC, WA

Team Manager - Janet Hamblin - Warren PC NSW



International Quiz Team

Kentucky, USA July

- Sharne Haskins - Londonderry PC NSW
- Kaitlyn Brockett - Lilydale PC TAS
- Hector Brennan - Woodlands PC VIC
- Annabelle Ennis-Wert - Werribee PC VIC
- Reserve - Tegan Hughes - Capel HPC WA

Team Coach - Rachael Edwards - Seville PC VIC

KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY
KENTUCKY



Mounted Games Canada, Aug/Sept

Riders are selected
through their states - stay tuned!



Competition for Clubs

Win a mounting block!



Pony Club Australia is putting together a New Members Handbook which will be able to be downloaded from our website.

We know many clubs already have a good handbook and we'd love to incorporate the best of your information, (with acknowledgement).

To be in the draw, email us a copy of your members guide/handbook/information sheet and your entry is in!

Kindly donated by

Entries close March 14, 2024

EMAIL: marketing@ponyclubaustralia.com.au



www.greggrantsaddlery.com.au

Anniversaries



The United States Pony Club (USPC) celebrates its 70th Anniversary this year. The organisation's vision is to be the leading source and voice of education in horse care, safety, and equestrian pursuits. Officially founded on February 24, 1954, as a youth organization to teach safe riding and the proper care of horses, USPC has developed into an organisation for all ages and experience levels.

In 2024

Pony Club in Australia is celebrating 85 years.
Pony Club United Kingdom (PCUK) is celebrating 95 years.
Pony Club New Zealand is celebrating 80 years.
China Pony Club is celebrating nine years.



2024 is the 60th Diamond Anniversary of West Plantagenet Pony Club, WA.

Diamonds AND Horses are an Equestrians Best Friend....The More Bling The Better!

SAVE THE DATE – FRIDAY 22nd MARCH 2024 from 6.30pm at WPPC Grounds Kendenup

\$10 Adults & \$5 Kids - RSVP by 17th March to Julieann Ph/text 0428 860 979

All past, present, pending members who have/had some involvement with our club are welcome to attend our 60th Diamond Jubilee Celebrations – Ball Dresses, Bow Ties & Boots dress them.

We are holding our Annual Camp Weekend on 23rd & 24th March 2024.

So come along and make a weekend of it!



Shepparton and Districts Horse and Pony Club has their 70th anniversary this year as well, and we hope their celebrations go well.

Pony Club Member Survey findings



1017

Riders, volunteers, coaches, offices and parents participated in our survey.



30%

Have been members for more than 10 years



66%

Have completed at least one Rider Certificate



81%

Have competed in a sporting gymkhana or mounted games competition



90%

Showjumping was the top discipline that riders have had training in at Pony Club



64%

Have competed in a dressage competition



40%

Have competed in a state competition

91%

Said their biggest benefit was riding with friends and being part of a like-minded community



Pony Club Survey results

The survey results will help PCA work with states and clubs to provide programs and benefits that our members have told us they care about in our community.



Have you heard about Grant Support?

It's the best way to keep up to date with the latest grants. Not only will Sports Community send you grants specific to your sport, state or goals, but this service is entirely free!

Sign up today to help secure your club's financial future!

<https://okt.to/HFzBGp>

Clubs can become members for access to resources and videos on how to run better clubs. They can sign up to their newsletter for information on grants relevant to them or assistance in gaining grants. Signing up to newsletter is free. Calling for support on gaining grants is free.

Is your club participating in 2024?

Send us your photos



Lilydale District Pony Club, TAS

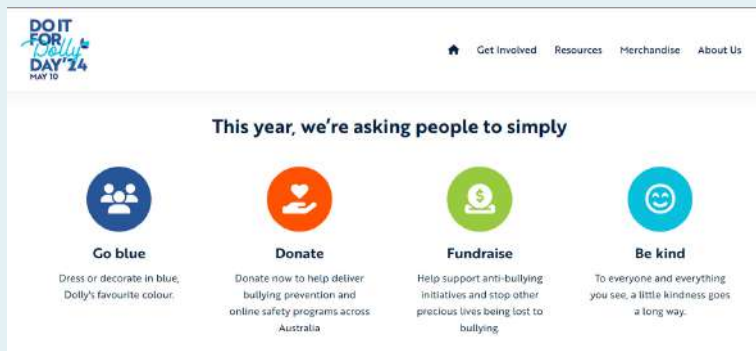
DO IT FOR DOLLY DAY '24

MAY 10

Dolly's Dream is committed to changing the culture of bullying by addressing the impact of bullying, anxiety, depression and youth suicide, through education and direct support to young people and families.

Raise awareness and funds to end bullying

<https://www.dollysdream.org.au/>



#BeKind

#DoitforDollyDay24

Website Builder

- TOOLS INCLUDE
- ✓ Widgets
 - ✓ Mobile App Design
 - ✓ Events and Social feeds
 - ✓ Landing Page
 - ✓ Easy Drag and Drop Builder

ONLY WITH
JUSTGO PRO

[Link to the user guide](#)

Does your club need a website?

Website builder an exciting tool to help clubs build and manage their websites. The builder contains a lot of amazing features and functionalities such as:

- Widgets
- Easy drag and drop builders
- SEO settings
- Event and Social feeds
- Mobile App design and much more.

Website builder is part of JustGo Pro subscription which can be acquired by clubs only for \$125 annually. When you consider all the other benefits of JustGoPro, it's great value for clubs.

Contact Monil at support@ponyclubaustralia.com.au to find out more or visit our website under Club Source <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/justgo-resources/>

Exciting news - PCANT is running the Equestrian Event at the Alice Springs Masters Games!

alicespringsmastersgames.com.au

 ALICE SPRINGS
Masters Games

12-19 October 2024

The games with *heart*



Join us on the journey
to Masters Games!

PONY CLUB
NORTHERN TERRITORY

Disciplines:

Monday 14/10 – Dressage

Tuesday 15/10 – Western
Dressage and Western Trail

Wednesday 16/10 – Day off:
explore Alice Springs/Trail
ride in the Todd

Thursday 17/10 – Ranch
Riding

Friday 18/10 – Show
Jumping

Book stables and
camping at the iconic
Blatherskite Park
blatherskitepark.com.au



ENTER NOW

alicespringsmastersgames.com.au



For more information, contact:
Ruth Hanssen: 0400 272 414



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Reasons to Walk Your Horse



1.

Horses were born to move around and graze. It is not acceptable to keep horses confined in yards or stables without providing lots of opportunities for movement (unless they are injured and a vet prescribes confinement.)

2.

Leading your horse at the walk can improve your horse's groundwork, a very useful training tool which is taught in the PCA certificate manuals. It also helps build trust.

3.

Leading your horse at the walk on a 'ride' is good for your physical health too.

4.

Walking helps make horses supple and strong. They are working but don't tire as quickly as they would at faster paces. If your horse is coming back from injury or a long spell, it should be the basis of his return to work for several weeks.

5.

There are many movements you can perfect at a walk before moving on to faster speeds. (eg turning around bending poles or drums, riding into corners, serpentine, working over poles on the ground).

6.

Walking helps release tension in a tense horse. It allows for full contraction of the long back muscles in a contraction-relaxation cycle. The fine-tuned motor control that is possible at the walk can enable you to help your horse find more range of motion and joint flexion. For example arriving at Pony Club or a competition can be stressful so the best thing is to quietly walk your horse around until he settles.

7.

Walking with friends and their horses helps your horse socialise and learn to work in groups without the stress of any activities. Tackling some rougher country with other horses and riders can help with your horse's confidence and sure-footedness.

8.

It is a great way to get a horse fit, especially if the terrain is undulating or hilly.

9.

Walking is the best way to start warming up your horse before he starts work, and to cool him down afterwards. He should not be tied up after strenuous work until his heart rate returns to normal. Once the saddle is removed he should be washed down to remove sweat and then walked as long as needed.

10.

Walking does not have to be boring. If you cannot walk along tracks or through paddocks, set up obstacles such as a working equitation/handy mount course * or do some polework *

* Both are [Disciplines of the Month](#) which can be found on the PCA website, with plenty of ideas to try.



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

Does your horse rush his fences?
It is not because he loves jumping!

5

Ways to
help fix it

It's the flight response

Allowing a horse to rush his jumps (or simply rush anywhere) will become a habit quickly and could become quite scary or dangerous.

The rider with the help of their coach needs to go back to some basics. The horse might rush because he is worried, or he has simply learned through repetition that this is how to jump, because he was never corrected.

Ideally you want him to travel in 'cruise control' like a car, until you ask him to slow down or speed up. That's called self-carriage and it is what we should all aim for.

Some people think the first choice to get a horse to slow down and lower his head is to use a stronger bit or other equipment, but that is like getting rid of the smoke but leaving the bushfire burning.

Here's some things to try first:

1. Practise your stop response before jumping; riders learn this in the certificate manuals but ask your coach if you are not sure.
2. When a horse rushes he loses rhythm. To get the rhythm back, try riding in a slow trot and try a metronome to keep the beat; correct the horse whenever he speeds up or slows down and use.
3. Try placing a pole on the ground one stride or half a stride in front of the obstacle, so the horse slows in front of the jump.
4. Go back to doing polework to settle the horse and get the rhythm back. * There's a Discipline of the Month on Polework on the PCA website.
5. Don't allow the horse to build up speed; try turning onto a fence from a circle or jumping from a steady trot until he realises what you want. (And don't forget to reward his efforts with a wither scratch)



Poster
download

Find my
cruise control



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA



[Yellow banner]

Dear Pony Club Australia,

Whoever does you fb posts - well done they are amazing !! And I am sharing them all on the Canadian Pony Club websiteyou are our inspiration !

Stay tuned for some big changes as Canadian Pony Club also adopts equitation science !



Don't miss this one! A great webinar hosted by Sport Integrity Australia to help understand the behaviours expected under the Safeguarding Children and Young People.

<https://www.facebook.com/events/911667923822062>

SPORT INTEGRITY AUSTRALIA | **Safeguarding in Sport**

Recognising Boundaries and Managing Behaviours

Sport Integrity Australia (SIA) Education Webinar Series

Recognising Boundaries and Managing Behaviours

Wednesday 6 March 2024
7.30pm - 8.30pm AEDT

EMERGENCY FIRST AID FOR HORSES

Webinar with **Dr James Meyer**

- How can you be prepared?
- What can you safely do?
- Watch it now!

<http://tinyurl.com/PCAFirstAidForHorses>

It's on the PCA YouTube Channel along with many other webinars

Welfare Wednesday | **PONY CLUB AUSTRALIA**

If your horse gets injured or ill at home, you could well be the first responder.

What are you going to do?

Here's some top advice from vet Dr James Meyer, in a webinar he did for Pony Club Australia last year, including a Q&A with members.

<http://tinyurl.com/PCAFirstAidForHorses>

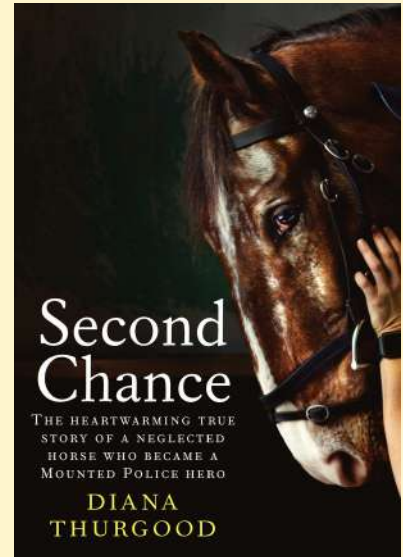
This and more are on the Pony Club YouTube channel @ponyclubaustralia2208

Writing tips for budding authors



This issue we announce the winners of six signed copies of 'Second Chance', by Diana Thurgood.

We asked her for some tips for budding young authors and here's what she said:



A few weeks ago, my first book *Second Chance* was published by Allen & Unwin. It's a beautiful story about the bond between a neglected horse bound for the knackery and my dear friend Tiffany, a Mounted Police Officer. It's also about how we shouldn't judge others (human or animal) on their physical appearance as we are always far more than this. As a writer it thrills me that I have opened up the beautiful world of horses for other people including people like myself as a child, who longed to experience this bond but for a myriad of reasons was unable to.



First up, I'm not a trained writer. I didn't study creative writing or literature at university but I write from the heart and that, I think is the key to being an author. You have to have a message or a passion inside that you need to communicate.



Tied to that is the important advice "Write what you know". Writing shouldn't be arduous. It should be an activity that fills you with joy. When you write what you know, in my case animals, the words just flow. I can draw on a wealth of experiences to illustrate whatever message I am trying to portray.



I do most of my writing in my head before I even sit down at the computer. When I'm walking or feeding animals or going to sleep, I'm usually thinking about something that I want to write. Then when I do start writing, it is more a case of transcribing than trying to think of what to say. Really powerful lines and phrases sometimes appear in my mind at the most unexpected moments, so I always write them down in notes.



- While it's good to be flexible, it's also good to be disciplined, especially when you are first starting to write. Set aside 10, 20 or 30 minutes a day (whatever you can spare) and write or journal. Write about anything and don't worry if it's not perfect. Just the activity of writing will open the gates to your imagination and creativity. The more you write, the more the gates will open and believe me there is unlimited potential inside you. You just need to find a way to access it.



'Show don't tell' is perhaps the most important writing technique I can recommend. Google it and you will find some great explanations and examples.



Finally, being a writer is a communal thing. Most writers don't just write for themselves, they write for others. So, you need to put your writing out there and get feedback. In the book *Second Chance* I cut quite a bit of stuff from the first part of the book and added five chapters to the second part on the advice of my structural editor. It was the best thing I could have done, but I couldn't see it at the time because I was too close to the manuscript. Also, read widely in your genre and learn from other writers. A close friend of mine is my greatest inspiration, she is such an exceptional writer.

Goodluck and have fun!

Second Chance - winning entries



Kim Staples, Vines Pony Club NSW (adult member)

My second chance to attend pony club was with Vines Pony Club as an adult rider.

When I became too old for Associates I thought my chance was gone. It was a very sad day in my life. I had so many fond memories of Pony Club in my teens. I had no plans to have kids, so there was never that chance to be a Pony Club mum!

It's been fabulous to be back as a riding member. I even bred my own horse to bring to Pony Club, something I would have never dreamed of as a teenager. We have an amazing club that is going from strength to strength. More clubs should include adult riders so that more adults get a second chance!

Isabella, 11, Upper Yarra Pony Club VIC

I am with Pony Club riding without horses. The reason I would give a horse a second chance is because if it has had a bad past I would push to help and achieve that chance and that's why I believe a horse always deserves the kindest possible. Even if they are retired they can still be loving and caring animals.



Jessica, 21, Ballan Pony Club

I was given my horse Bo, a 15 y/o OTT, in 2018. We've tried everything together and while he never excelled at most disciplines as he's very uncoordinated, I've persisted to find something to suit us both.

He's always tried hard to please so I knew I had to give him his best chance at success even if that wasn't in the "mainstream" disciplines.

That's when we tried Ride to Time, being OTT he loves it, he's in his element riding around a racecourse. We qualified for states last year, riding a PB time on the day (only 0.03 seconds off) and WON!



Tamika, 17 Werribee Pony Club Indie's second chance

Seven years ago a paint mare, 'Casablanca' was roaming throughout the streets of Nillumbik Shire, she had broken out of her paddock through faulty fencing, she was roaming the streets for three days with multiple attempts to catch her injuring people in the process, she was eventually caught and put in the pound.

Her future wasn't looking to promising, until she was picked up and moved to a new paddock with new friends, after some work and a new name ' Miss Indianna Blue' she was given to a 12yr old who decided to love her forever and are now reaching dreams together.

Second Chance - winning entries



Lyn White, Mareeba & District Pony Club QLD

Chief instructor and Adult rider

It all started when we decided to buy a 5% share in a racehorse. We had been enjoying his adventures on and off the track for a year or so when unfortunately he injured a tendon during a race. Sadly a number of his owners immediately withdrew their financial support with no thought to his welfare. The trainer was left with no choice but to retire him. Even though we only owned 5% we put our hands up to take responsibility for him and to give him the time he needed to recover, so that he could have his second chance at life after racing. So glad we did. Peter the Piper is such a sweetie.

William, 7, Tamborine Pony Club QLD

We have just bought Teddy for me to start my first year at Pony Club. We don't know a lot about Teddy's history and Teddy was a little sad when we bought him a few weeks ago but he has a second chance with us and is my new best friend. This is a picture of him when we got him compared to now.



PCA thanks everyone for your entries. Photos were not required but we really enjoyed seeing the photos some of you sent. Message from Diana Thurgood, author, who donated the books:

“Congratulations to our winners and to all the people who entered the competition. It’s wonderful to see the kindness, compassion and joy of our members and their love for their beautiful horses. I hope you all enjoy Toby’s story - Second Chance.”

Out this month: Published by Allen and Unwin; available all good bookstores for \$32.99 if you didn't win a copy!

Dear Pony Club Australia and TIC,

(Edited for length)

My daughters River (right) and Lotus Rothery signed up for pony racing. River rode in the large pony race at Moonee Valley on Cox Plate eve. She wore the Craig Sneesby colours and won the pick of the yard with her pony Banjo. Lotus sadly missed out on race night due to her naughty pony playing up on the final testing day, but you guys were so lovely, especially Tracy asking Lotus to help as starter, including her in everything and letting her wear the TIC silks. It meant a lot to her and to us. Don't worry she'll be back this year!!

I just wanted to update you on the amazing whirlwind it has been since pony racing with River. River is a girl who dislikes school only wants to ride her horses and has suffered in the past with anxiety issues. Pony Racing and her new found friendship with Mr Craig Sneesby has put a real zest for life in River.

After pony racing River was asked to be the ambassador for our local Colac Cup, and we were asked to get the silks she wore, for a photoshoot for The Cup. I contacted Craig through social media who was thrilled at the idea and couldn't have been more obliging and had some silks made up and express posted to us. In the parcel was not only the silks but a card for River thanking her and asking her to wear the silks proudly. We have kept in touch and River sent Craig a Christmas card also asking him if she could have Sheraz when he retires, and if he thinks he would showjump? Which he said he'd do his best to get him to her!

To top off all of these amazing things, yesterday River and I received an invite from Craig and his wife to the Sydney Cup, where all being well River's favorite horse Sheraz (& Selino) will be running.

Just wanted to say thank you so much, this would never have happened without the TIC pony racing. This is just one of the things that goes on behind the scenes and means so much. You guys deserve all the awards you are receiving. We'll be seeing you at this year's pony racing with two girls very eager to be involved again.

Kind Regards, Christy Rothery



Shetland Pony Race

There is still time to enter the Exhibition Shetland Race on **Saturday 23rd March 2024** during the 3 Point Motors William Reid Stakes Day at The Valley.
March 12 - Entries close
March 17 - First round selection/training
March 22 - Practice session, Moonee Valley.

[More details here:](#)



The final qualifier for the National Pony Racing Series will be held in SA on the 11th March during Adelaide Cup day at Morphettville before the first race.

The Finals are the 20th April - stay tuned for the riders and horses from each state's events.