

August 9, 2021



Pony Club Values More Than Riding

New Values Awards recognise members' talents

Julie Binns of Lilydale and Districts Pony Club in Tasmania is the first recipient of Pony Club Australia's Community Captain Award.

A parent and committee member, she was nominated by her Club for helping to include more people in Pony Club and building collaborations between the Club and the community, in particular by developing a 'Rider Encouragement Grant.'

Now in its second year, the Encouragement Grant aims to support young people between 10 and 18yrs who show a passion and interest in horse riding and require assistance to participate in Pony Club.

Applications to a subcommittee are treated with the utmost confidentiality and discretion, with preference given to those experiencing vulnerability and/or experiencing hardship, financial or otherwise.

The Rider Encouragement Grant includes annual membership fees, \$100 towards Pony Club uniform, a PCA proficiency manual to study the relevant theory for the rider's age, and entry fees for Club-run events, camps and clinics. The local community also becomes involved by becoming benefactors of the award.

"Pony Club has never been just about riding, ribbons and competition," CEO Dr Catherine Ainsworth said. "But now these new awards are a way to recognise members for their interest and work in three areas.

"These are the community (Community Captain award), creating sustainable solutions (Sustainability Champion award) and caring for horses and others (Welfare Warrior award). These awards are not just for riding members, but all members."

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A Lilydale and District spokesperson said the first recipient of the Rider Encouragement Grant gained a great deal from the helping hand. “The opportunities to this recipient went well beyond riding by getting involved with our PC community activities. Meeting like-minded peers and positive adult role models encouraged this rider to begin seeing the world in a different way, and grow in confidence and feelings of achievement.

“Julie Binns is living and demonstrating our Club values in action through this great initiative, but she is also a wonderful role-model for all riders by choosing to take the time to think about others.”

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