

March 23, 2021



Pony Club: It's Not Just About the Riding

New Values Awards recognise members' talents

The first two recipients of the new Pony Club Australia Values Awards have been announced this week.

"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, and the first two recipients have been awarded the Sustainability Champion Awards."

Pony Club Australia Sustainability Champions undertake projects which ensure the long-term sustainability of Pony Club. The winners are:

Emma Le Grand from Learmonth Pony Club, Victoria

Emma, 36, was one of the driving forces behind starting the Learmonth Pony Club in September 2019. This required managing the logistics of starting a club and also attracting brand new members in a rural community of just 300 people. She took on the role of rally organiser and honorary secretary position, secured a ground lease of Council land, and is training to become the Club's first accredited coach. She also writes articles for the local town newsletter to engage the community in Pony Club activities. Emma has done all this while undergoing chemotherapy.

"It is people like Emma who guarantee the growth and sustainability of the Pony Club movement in Australia. We are proud to honour her contribution with a Pony Club Australia Sustainability Champion award," Dr Ainsworth said.



Fiona Mamet, Hendra Pony Club, Queensland

Hendra Pony Club is an agisting Pony Club with families from a mix of different cultures and backgrounds keeping their horses and ponies on site. The Hendra Pony Club President's Volunteer of the Year award is a symbol of the attitude of support, recognition and teamwork that makes it possible to successfully hold rallies and competitions at an agistment facility, whilst maintaining a strong sense of family at the Pony Club grounds.

We are grateful for the support of national sponsors:



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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All Pony Clubs depend heavily on volunteers, and to acknowledge the amazing work of Hendra Pony Club's volunteers Fiona, as Club President, sponsored a new award for the Hendra Pony Club - the 'President's Volunteer of the Year'. This highly valued award is now the highlight of the annual trophy presentation day.

As noted by Fiona's nominator, Gael Gant, "No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another". We would like to recognise Fiona's role in celebrating the volunteer culture on which the social sustainability of Pony Club thrives.



The other two Values Awards are:

Community Captain – They 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.

Welfare Warrior - This 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.

Dr Ainsworth said, "We know there are many more worthy Pony Club members out there and we look forward to them being nominated by their Clubs."

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