



PCA Awards 2023

Winning Entry Summaries

The following are all summaries of the nominations. Entry criteria are also on the PCA website

Club of the Year

From 14 quality nominations from WA, NSW, QLD, VIC, and SA the judges narrowed it down to three, with CRC Pony Club taking the honours.

Canberra Riding Club Pony Club Lyneham ACT (NSW)

CRC let some members' parents do the talking, including this: "We are new to CRC and horse ownership, and the club has been a fantastic support in that transition. Before we bought our horse I reached out to the club for advice and they have given us pre-purchase guidance, welcomed us to Rally Days to observe, connected us with a buddy family and are now supporting us to become active members. This has 100% set my family and daughter up for both horse ownership and enjoying CRC as a community and place to learn."

The club underwent a brand uplift in 2022. Communications, documents and uniforms now have the new brand as well as a new vision to the messaging: "Growing a love of horses in the heart of the capital". New riding members are gifted a new look cap after they attend their first three rallies.

Last year the club embarked on a dynamic social media strategy, sharing useful information on Facebook and Instagram based on the PCA syllabus, celebrating current members, and providing insights into our club and grounds, they have succeeded in engaging their audience. This content not only engages and educates existing members but also reaches a broader audience and potential future members of Pony Club.

CRC has a number of members with diverse learning, mental health or accessibility needs including autism, ADHD, vision impairment, and dyslexia so a variety of engagement and learning techniques are used. The senior instructor created their own videos and diagrams of common dressage tests, which significantly aided our riders with autism, reading difficulties and a visual learning style to help them feel confident learning their tests.

At the end of the year, every rider receives a personalised certificate listing their Pony Club accomplishments, including rallies attended, jump gradings, and PCA certificates achieved. Earlier this year the club took action to address findings in PCA's period survey, providing a free period emergency support box in the ladies' bathroom and adding bins to every cubicle.

To address future member needs, CRC is working on offerings for adult riding members (they have several already) and is considering the options for individuals who keep their horses locally to hire the grounds and facilities.

Governance:

CRC has developed a strategic plan that sets goals around members needs and aspirations, as well as financial stability, safety in all activities, member participation, quality rider education, member progress, operational and governance improvement, inclusion, horse welfare, and "TeamCRC" culture.

Started during COVID, virtual meeting options continue to be available for all meetings. Succession planning is in place for the committee and members 18-25 years are more involved in the running of the club, taking up roles like Membership Officer and Zone Representative

CRC has embraced the JustGo platform provided by PCA and the club utilises Google Drive for online collaboration and storage of their records.

Virtual rallies were used during COVID so members could still learn; the senior Instructor leads this effort, often setting riders tasks which they are asked to video and share with the club via Facebook. The club also launched a ground work video series, followed up by inviting an experienced groundwork instructor and former Pony Club member to coach at rally.

Membership has increased from 49 to 63 (28.6%) in two years and members have become increasingly active in the equestrian community, with strong friendships which endure long after rally day is done.

The Gillian Rolton Memorial Alumnus Award

This is for a current or ex-Pony Club member over 25 years old who has gone on to be an active participant in the horse industry as a rider, leader or professional serving the horse industry (eg coach, educator, journalist, vet). The nominee has taken inspiration from their time at Pony Club and been an ambassador for the organisation.

Todd Hinde

Bega Pony Club, NSW

Todd, 35, is the first Australian appointed as Jumping Director for the International Equestrian Federation (FEI), the international governing body for horse sports. He is now based at the FEI headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

He has been chef d'equipe for several Australian showjumping World Cup and Olympic teams in recent times.

Hinde was a member of the Bega Pony Club for nine years and the local jumping club, competing at local agricultural shows and other regional showjumping events. The

opportunity then arose to train and compete in Europe. From 2012 to 2015, he competed in Australia, Belgium, Germany, Portugal, and Spain going up to CSI3* level.

He was appointed Chef d'Equipe of the 2018 World Equestrian Games showjumping team in Tryon, which achieved the nation's highest team placing at a world championship (6th) and secured a berth at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

The Chef d'Equipe role evolved in 2019 into a full-time position as Equestrian Australia High Performance Jumping Manager, working with riders based both at home and abroad on their individual performance plans, team plans and on growing the sport for Australia.

Just before heading to his new role, Todd was chef d'equipe for the Australian showjumping team which competed in - and won – the Group G regional qualifier at Valkenswaard, the Netherlands, locking in a team spot for Paris 2024.

Sponsored by Pony Club Australia .

Accredited Riding Centre of the Year

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).

Little Ranch Horse Riding Lessons (Josie Richardson) Yorklea, NSW

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.

You can find out more at visit <https://ponyclubaustralia.com.au/about-us/pca-accredited-centres/> .

Coach of the Year

Kasey Manolini

Albany Pony Club WA

As chief coach Kasey has encouraged all of the club's coaches to develop lesson plans that effectively use the new syllabus. She has also encouraged many of the current coaches and members to look into sitting their relevant coaching level assessments, including foundation coach, and do their gear checking accreditation.

She implements on average two opportunities each year for the children to sit their relevant certificates and assists them in the leadup to make sure they are well prepared.

Kasey took the state dressage team under her wing and helped in many ways, including the music for riders and she did team schedules. She goes to every event where Albany PC riders are competing and helps them warm up and provides pep talks.

Sponsored by East Coast Equine Constructions – makers of fine equestrian arenas.

Young Coach of the Year is a new category for coaches aged 30 years and under.

Jayde Kirkham,

Macedon PC, VIC

While still a riding member at Macedon Pony Club, Jayde completed her A Certificate, and her NCAS Preliminary and Level 1 Coach qualifications. This year was her first as regular, full rally coach at the club. Jayde is great with the children and makes dressage fun for them by teaching them dressage in a fun way. She even runs the ready to ride through a mini dressage test by making it fun to teach the horses how to halt square and the riders to salute.

Jayde encourages the riders and helps them out regularly at competitions. She is constantly on the phone helping the younger members of Macedon Pony Club with how to enter, what to wear and the suitability and safety of gear. Jayde is always encouraging all riders in our zone to complete certificates and helps them achieve their goals.

Jayde is also the Zone examining secretary of Central Zone all while she is completing a PHD at Melbourne University. Jayde set an example with NCAS at our Club, and they now have four NCAS qualified coaches at Macedon, with another three starting their Preliminary coach training; two are existing mature age jumping coaches.

Jayde is sought after not only to coach at multiple pony clubs, but to judge and always help Macedon run all their events. Nothing is too much trouble at Pony Club level, zone level or State level.

Volunteer of the Year

Robyn Gordon

Serpentine Horse and Pony Club WA

Robyn has been a valued member, and secretary, of West Coastal Zone for many years. Robyn coaches the Leadline riders at each of the Clubs in the Zone. She brings a sense of togetherness and community to the Zone and has united the Clubs to work together. Robyn co-ordinated the C and C* riders theory sessions via Zoom to enable all riders to have access to the information required to pass their theory exams and care for their ponies.

Recently Robyn started working with the WA State Quiz Teams to help them to prepare for the PCA National Championships. The Zoom sessions are important as the Team members are from all around WA and many did not know each other. The friendships are developing and so is their knowledge. Robyn worked with the State Coaching Panel to hold a Preliminary Coaching workshop at Serpentine Horse and Pony Club. She encouraged members from other Clubs and Zones to participate to ensure it was well attended and successful.

At State Dressage Squad days Robyn and her family have cooked the lunches, morning and afternoon snacks. She also catered the event for sponsors and VIPs at our State Dressage Championships.

Best achievement by a Rider Open Age (over 25 years) - New Category

Jasmine Tothill

Denmark Pony Club, WA

Jasmine has been an active member of Denmark Pony Club as an adult rider for three years. Having joined nervously with her very green waler, her full participation in everything that the club offers has seen her flourish with confidence, skill and knowledge.

Jasmine attends every rally and now rides with our C/C* riding group, always including herself in all aspects of the rally including flatwork, jumping and theory. She also has a go at any other special activities that we may schedule like polocrosse, ridi to time and active riding.

Jasmine is a role model for adult learning. She is always open to feedback with her equine partnership. Now, she and her horse can competently complete a Novice level dressage test, a 60cm SJ/XC course and complete speed to safety on our gallop track.

Jasmine immerses herself fully in the delivery of our PCA syllabus. This year Jasmine sat her D & D* Certificate Assessments along with our young riders and is now working on her C.

Jasmine has been Denmark Pony Club secretary for two years, and fulfil this role with professionalism and outstanding knowledge of good club governance. In addition to her committee responsibilities, during 2022 and 2023 Jasmine has created an incredible recycling initiative through 'Containers for Change' for our members. To encourage some friendly competition with a focus on sustainability and our environment Jasmine utilised her craft skills to create a wall-mounted 2-D cross country track with a point system. Riders then

laminated a photo or illustration of themselves and their pony to start the 'race'. When riders donate containers either at our rally days or straight to the recycling depot, that monetary amount is converted to points and riders can move their 'character' along the course. The visual impact of this displayed in our clubroom in such a fun way has seen 100% engagement in recycling by our riding members.

Jasmine has tirelessly nurtured a 'plant nursery' at her own home to ensure her club has the most amazing dressage arena and showjumping dressing available for competitions.

She is a role model to our young riders but also to our parent community who wished they'd done Pony Club when they were kids but missed the chance. She inspires them that it's never too late to start.

This award is sponsored by @HairyPony quality horse grooming products.

Best achievement by a Rider 18-25 years

Emily Newberry

Mooloolah Pony Club QLD

Emily comes to rallies and helps out even when she is not riding. Her horse's welfare always comes first. She takes the time to encourage other riders and shares her learnt knowledge with them also. She takes the time to explore new disciplines to expand her and her horses riding. Emily has taken on the role of Vice President at our club. She supports our management committee while learning the ropes of the valuable roles of management. She is always first to offer up ideas, support, hands on help and advice when the club asks. She contributes to the planning and execution of rallies, events and other club activities.

This award was sponsored by Ranvet equine nutrition.

Best achievement by a Rider 13-17 years

Emily Hudak

Seville Pony Club, VIC

Emily has organised various fundraisers for her club, including a freshman's showjumping day this year, and promoted her club and Pony Club in general in local newspapers and on social media.

Emily is a good mentor, supporting the junior members with skills throughout the rally and events – eg assisting them tacking up, assisting at the canteen, encouraging them, and helping with pack up and set up of equipment.

Emily consistently demonstrates the criteria of the club's prestigious 'Brenda Mitton Pony Club Spirit Award' and has won it twice, based on the annual clinic performance.

Emily has shown leadership skills and assisted in gaining assets for the club through research and ideas. Examples of this are recent addition of a wash bay, cross country fence designs and purchases. She is on the Junior Committee and holds her C certificate. Emily has ridden at state events and represented Team Vic in the Nationals in 2021 and 2023.

This award was sponsored by Ranvet equine nutrition.

Best achievement by a Rider 12 years and Under

Chloe Benis

Tooradin Dalmore Pony Club VIC

Chloe is a well-mannered, friendly and motivated rider who is punctual, enthusiastic and an excellent role model to her peers. Chloe is a riding member that attends pony club mounted and unmounted and will always choose a rally day over a competition day. Chloe is helpful on rally days and is very flexible when asked to change groups or activities based on the DC's instruction. Chloe understands the approach to riding instruction can vary in methods and respects her instructors and riding peers, always displaying a friendly nature and can do approach. Chloe enjoys riding with the younger groups to inspire and encourage their learning which is matched with Chloe looking up to the senior riders at our club.

Chloe has ridden at State and National level, and at the 2023 PCA Nationals, placed 3rd in Combined Training 45cm class riding for Team Victoria.

This award was sponsored by Gala Equine.

October 2023.

Does your club have standout riders, coaches, or volunteers?

Is your club doing outstanding things?

Why not enter next year?