

October 19, 2021



Young indigenous rider, Lalwa May, is Northern Territory's star rider for PCA Nationals

Lalwa May is an impressive figure on her 14.3 hh Connemara cross Thoroughbred mare. Only 14 years old, she is a true Darwin local with Larrakia heritage on her father's side and her young mare, Powderbark Charlotte, was a gift from her grandmother and broken in by her mother.

The young indigenous rider joined Pony Club 5 years ago and for the last two seasons has been impressing the judges with not only impeccable dressage skills but also her showjumping results.

Lalwa is the only competitor from the Northern Territory in the Thoroughbred Industry Careers Pony Club Nationals 2021 and shared her story about the importance of being a role model for other young indigenous riders in an interview with Pony Club Australia.

<https://youtu.be/cN7a7hOLiJY>

"It's really special to have such a big influence on the younger riders, not all indigenous kids have the chance or the facilities to start.

"If they started or had some people to look up to, I think that would be awesome," Lalwa told us from her home in Darwin, which is Larrakia land.

Lalwa is one of the first to receive her C level pony club certificate at Darwin Horse and Pony Club and jumped at the opportunity to represent the Northern Territory, scoring highly in the recent NT Pony Club Championships and frequently winning and placing in the NT's equestrian sports competitions.

This year, the Pony Club Australia Nationals are a "virtual" event due to Covid19. Teams from across Australia, under strict competition rules, film and submit their entries to the national body for judging. Riders from every state are competing.

Dr Catherine Ainsworth CEO of Pony Club Australia said, "When faced with all the challenges of 2021, we considered the riders who go through state qualifiers for a year to make their state team. Rather than add the disappointment of yet another cancellation for young people, we decided to take the event online.

"The Nationals involve seven sports – showjumping, dressage, eventing, quiz, mounted games, Ride to Time and tetrathlon (running, swimming, shooting and riding). We have had to change the eventing to a combined training competition but otherwise we are running everything as planned in State hubs with identical courses."

To find out when the events will be screened, please follow the dedicated Facebook page [Thoroughbred Industry Careers PCA National Championships](#) or check www.ponyclubaustralia.com.au

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