

# Hitching Post

Dandenong Ranges Horse and Pony Club: Monthly Newsletter

May 2016

## Duty Helpers May

- Kavaliotis
- Bartolo
- Wilson

## Duty Helpers June

- Matthews
- McDougall
- Comben

## Duty Helpers August

- Grave
- Clifford
- Cooper

## Canteen and duties

Families on duty roster will be preparing a simple lunch menu in the morning and maintaining the canteen, along with the clear up at the end of the day.

**It is essential that you 'Report in' to the Canteen at 9am** (even if you can not help until Lessons begin, due to having young children to assist) so that we can ascertain if there is anyone missing from duty and if so arrange alternative cover.

*Duties:* Report to the canteen at the beginning of the day (9am). Someone will tell you what you need to do (in the nicest possible way....first to report to canteen will have first pick of duties)

*Canteen:* Prepare lunchtime menu, serve throughout the morning and at lunchtime and clean the canteen when finished including sweeping and mopping the kitchen floor.

*Cleaning:* Sweep club rooms and clean amenities at the end of the day.

*Equipment:* Help set up jumps and games equipment etc before rally and pack up these at the end of the day. If you are not in the canteen you must do this.

### Important:

If you are unable to help when you have been rostered on, you must arrange to swap with someone else.

To do this, call/text either

- **Sam Cross**  
(0432 077 051)

or

- **Claudia Schultz**  
(0423 003 294)

**Reminder that no dogs are permitted on the grounds during rallies and there is a no smoking policy at all times.**

Don't forget to **book into rallies!!**

Just follow the link below:-

<http://www.dandenongranges.ponyclubvic.org.au/default.asp?Page=28791>

If you do not book in, or have not contacted the DC by phone/email at least 7 days prior to the rally date, it shall be assumed that you will not be attending the rally. Please realise that we get the very best of instructors and we pay them much more than PCAV recommends as, if we didn't, we would not have these high quality instructors. The instructor bill is over \$1,000 every rally and sometimes it is well over this amount. If we have 2 instructors with 3 riders in their group, we are, in effect, giving 6 riders a fantastic day, but we are using funds unnecessarily. We would love to spend money on improving the grounds so a saved \$250 is almost a whole new portable cross country jump.

## FEEDBACK

We would love to hear any feedback, be it positive or negative. If you would like to make a suggestion or have any feedback please email the secretary or the president or alternatively you can use the suggestion box located in the club rooms. Your feedback helps to change the things you are not happy with and tells us when you like the things the club is doing for its members.

## USE OF THE GROUNDS

The committee encourages members to use the pony club grounds for training purposes. There are several advantages to using the grounds for both members and the club. Riders are able to utilise the safe and secure facilities to better their riding skills and the club benefits from a steady stream of members who have an interest in ensuring that our grounds are kept safe, that security is maintained and the grounds kept in good clean condition.

Keys can be collected from any committee

member by arrangement and must be returned after you have finished using the grounds. If you do utilise the grounds, please run your eagle eye over the facilities..... Is the tractor container secure, is the door closed, are all padlocks still on all doors? Is there anything that looks wrong or unsafe? Is there a tree down? If there is any damage to the grounds, such as a broken jump or tyre ruts in the ground, please let someone know so these hazards can be fixed in good time. If there is something that can be fixed yourself please do. We are all volunteers at this club so every little helps. If you can not fix the issue, the committee members are the 'go to' people to action repairs.

## THE RULES

- Always wear a helmet and correct riding boots.
- NEVER ride alone. There must be at least one, unmounted, adult with you at all times.
- Do not lend out the key, or allow access to our grounds to non-members of the club. Our grounds belong to the members and are private property, for the use only by its club members. Non-members are not covered by insurance to ride at our grounds.

These rules may be restrictive but we do not want to discover a horse or rider injured and requiring medical attention just because that rider was riding alone.



## Important Information

### Not Going to a Rally?

If you are not going to attend a rally you must notify our DC, Fiona Matthews, by the Monday prior to the rally.

You must also notify Fiona if you decide to leave during the rally as to gain an attendance at a rally day on your card, you must attend for half the lessons on the day according to PCAV by-laws, which means at least 2 of the 3 lessons for the day.

Please call Fiona on: 0419 336 645

### ENTERING A COMPETITION?

If you wish to enter pony club competitions, you must ensure that you are graded for that type of competition and that your grading card is fully completed, up to date and that you have it with you! If you require grading you must fill in a grading request form (available in the club rooms and online when you book in), give it to Fiona and she will arrange a suitable time to be assessed. If you have any queries or need more information on how to

enter competition, what the different competitions are, including gear rules etc. please contact Fiona or speak to another committee member.

### WHAT UNIFORM MUST I WEAR?

There is some confusion regarding what is acceptable uniform at rallies and out at competitions.

At Rallies: Clean jodhpurs (any colour or design), club jumper with white shirt and club tie or Polo Shirt. The long sleeved polo top can be worn over the short-sleeved polo. Socks are never to be worn over jodhpurs unless wearing gaiters/chaps.

At Competitions: Beige or white jodhpurs/breeches. Dressage uniform must be club jumper with white shirt and club tie. This is also the show jumping uniform but the Polo shirt can also be worn. Cross-country can be ridden in any top as long as it reflects our club colours.

FULL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN IF YOU ARE REQUIRED FOR PRESENTATION!!

## Working Bee Dates

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> September** from 2pm onwards.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November** from 9.30am in preparation for our annual Combined Training Competition.

## Mini Tooradin

Volunteer assistance is also required for this Zone run event on 22 May 2016. Please email Kelly or let a Committee Member know if you are able to help.

## **Zone Mounted Games and Musical Ride**

Dandy Ranges are hosting the event this year on Saturday 7 May and would appreciate any help you can offer on the day. Please let Kelly know if you are able to spare a couple of hours to help with our duties, which include canteen and general pack up at the end of the day. It is also a great opportunity to come and watch and learn more about this event, especially if your children have shown an interest in Games or Musical Ride or you have often wondered what its all about.

## **Melbourne International 3DE**

This year our Members will attend Melbourne International 3DE on our scheduled Rally day in July. Members attending this event will benefit from a seasoned competitor walking them around the cross country course with detailed information on the challenges faced by horse and rider at each jump or jump combination and can answer any questions you may have too. There is lots to see and do at this event, including a huge complex of Trade Stalls to stock up on great value essentials (or Christmas presents!). Due to the Rio Olympics this year all the biggest names in eventing will be out competing so its set to be bigger than ever!! The club will cover all entry fees for Members and parents will be responsible for their own entry fees, however can still be included in the group booking in order to benefit from reduced prices. Please email Kelly as soon as possible to let her know if you will be attending so that we can arrange the group booking as quickly as possible. Payment will be required at the time of booking so please ensure that you make arrangements for this at the time of confirmation of your attendance. At this stage we hope to have 2 coaches, departing from PC in the early morning, to carry all Members and parents to and from the event, but this will be confirmed nearer the time.

## **Adult Riders**

Due to huge demand Dandy Ranges will be introducing an Adult Riders Club starting on 1 July. The club will be open to Family and Friends of the club only to ensure a friendly atmosphere where adult members can meet and ride with other people they know. Membership is set at \$300 per year (\$150 of that is for PCAV Insurance) with a 'Pay Per Rally' Fee to be determined dependant on the number of attendees at a rally. At this stage it has been suggested that rallies be held on a Saturday but this can be discussed by the Adult Riding Members and finalised as per their requirements. If you are interested in becoming an Adult Rider at Dandy Ranges, please see or email Kelly to express your interest. Adult Riders will also benefit from access to ride at the grounds.

## Thanks to our generous sponsors:

*Please consider supporting them all where possible  
and don't forget to mention your club*

Melanie from **Piaffe** is kindly sponsoring us by donating items to raffle at our rallies and competition days. Check out her website at: [www.piaffeequestrian.com](http://www.piaffeequestrian.com) or phone her on: 9754 8499. You can also Facebook her.



Our fresh Fruit and Vegetables are kindly donated by Martin at The **Groovy Fruit Shop** in Belgrave South.

Consider supporting the local community Greengrocer and don't forget to mention the Pony Club when you visit.

Our Bread is kindly donated by **Bakers Delight** - Fountain Gate and arrangements for this were made through Amanda and Joy Maker

**Lysterfield Produce** are also extremely generous supporters of our club, notably providing us with showbags with gifts for our competitions



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Bell Real Estate Belgrave  
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to the Dandenong Ranges Pony Club  
**Think BIG - Think BELL**

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Donation will be given upon settlement of property