

MOOROOLBARK PONY CLUB NEWSLETTER

November 2010
NEXT RALLY SUNDAY 14th November

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FAMILIES ON DUTY – November RALLY

Please note that rally starts at 9:30, so duty starts at 8:30

Harper Wright Pepper

UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS

<i>Mooroolbark PC Rally</i>	<i>14th Nov</i>
<i>Lilydale Agricultural Show</i>	<i>21/22 Nov</i>
<i>Upper Yarra PC Showjumping Day</i>	<i>28th Nov</i>
<i>Mooroolbark PC Rally</i>	<i>5th Dec</i>
<i>NMZ State Qualifiers Dressage & SJ</i>	<i>12th Dec</i>
<i>(closing date for state qualifiers is 19 November, so you need to speak to Lindy at next rally if you wish to enter)</i>	
<i>NZM Grade 1,2,3 XC Clinic at Wandin Park</i>	<i>19th Jan 2011</i>

There are MANY more events - Check the PCAV web site for entry forms, and more details on these, and other events. www.ponyclubvic.org.au

Last Updated 20/10/2010

MOOROOLBARK PONY CLUB			
FAMILIES ON DUTY - ROSTER			
<i>2009 February</i>	McKinnon	Dalsanto	Tropeano
<i>March</i>	Robbins	Pepper	??
<i>April</i>	Russell	Savini	??
<i>May</i>	Litovkin	Tropeano	Catley
<i>June</i>	Brooks	O'Neill	Wright
<i>July</i>	Fleming	Harper	Winter
<i>August</i>	Drennan	Goss	Laity
<i>September</i>		Romei	(rally at Wandin
<i>October</i>	Moore	Bourke	Howes
<i>November</i>	Clark	McKinnon	Kanen
<i>December</i>	Dalsanto	Russell	Savini
<i>2010 February</i>	Bourke	O'Neill	Catley
<i>March</i>	Brooks	Goss	Harper
<i>April</i>	Tropeano	Moore	Pepper
<i>May</i>	Romei	Winter	Laukart
<i>June</i>	Robbins	Russell	Howes
<i>July</i>	Kanen	Drennan	Wright
<i>August</i>	McKinnon	Henchley	O'Neill
<i>September</i>		Dalsanto	Goss
<i>October</i>	Moore	Scott	Winter
November	Harper	Wright	Pepper
December	Bourke	Catley	Laukart
2011 February	Howes	Robbins	Russell
March	Henchley	Kanen	Laukart
April	Scott	Tropeano	Dalsanto
May	Goss	McKinnon	O'Neill

How does the duty roster work?

These are the expectations for families on duty:

** One parent to assist in the canteen all day, starting from 8:30 (winter) 7:30 (summer)

** One parent to assist outside the canteen all day, starting from 8:30 (winter) 7:30 (summer)

** Assistance with clean up of canteen, toilets and club rooms at the end of the day

** Roster families also need to take home that day's garbage as we don't have a garbage collection at the club

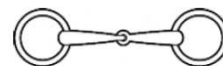
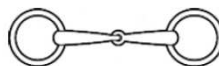
Changes to the roster?

As we no longer have a specific person organising roster, it is YOUR responsibility to organise a swap if needed, and to let Wendy Wright know so she can change the information in the newsletter/web site. The information that we have published above is to the best of our knowledge - if you don't tell us about changes, we won't know to make the change.

End of day pack up

The pack up of equipment in each ring/arena is to be done by ALL FAMILIES at the rally on the day. This frees up the rostered families to help with the clean up duties.

If everyone pitches in, the ring pack up can be done very quickly - more hands make light work!



Greeting Everybody and welcome to the penultimate rally of the year.

I will be absent for November rally so Roz Goss will be acting DC on the day. We have Sue Cornish coming as a specialist dressage instructor. There will also be a bit of a play with games as well as the more usual pursuits.

I am looking for riders who want to compete at the North Metro Zone Dressage and Show Jumping qualifying day. It is to be held on Sunday 12 December at Wesburn Park. You will also need to be available for the State Championships at Corio on 27 Feb 2011 if you were to qualify. Entries close soon. If you are Dressage Grade 3 or 2 or Show Jumping Grade C or B and want to enter please talk to Roz on Sunday.

Looking ahead to December rally, you have told me you want to have Fancy dress amongst other things. We will have that in the lunch hour and it will be something along the lines of a red faces/talent act. So you can just come along all dressed up or you can also impress the judges with any tricks you and your pony might know or a demo ride. eg a pas de deux (dance for two) with a friend. I'm letting you all know now so you have time to get your imaginations working and then put it all together. Remember any costume you dream up has to be safe. You must wear boots and a helmet and be careful of any entanglement hazards.

As always please let me know as early as possible if you are not coming to rally or you are returning after a long absence.

Cheers
Lindy

Year Badges ... Don't forget to bring back your old year badges if you have received a new one (or are due to). If you don't then other riders may miss out on their badges. Please return them to Sue Tucker.



Chocolate Fundraiser ...

Hi everybody,

- I hope you have all had a good month, getting out on those ponies a bit more with this lovely spring weather. I also hope to see lots of empty chocolate box's next rally. Just a reminder for everyone to bring back the money (I don't really want the box, just the money!!!) everyone should return \$51.60 each, on the bag write your name so I can cross your name off my list.

I would also like to thank the families that took some extra box's Pepper, Vaughan, Whitfort, Goss, Robbins and thank you to Kate Wilson who also took a box it was very appreciated. If I missed anyone sorry!

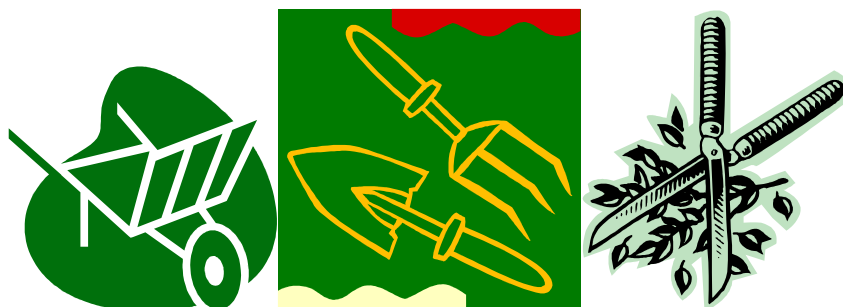
- Looking forward to seeing everyone at rally.
- Lauren

Canteen Report

Thanks to our hard working duty families at the last rally. Canteen ran very smoothly, and Ruth & I were able to get away to watch our own girls riding, which we really appreciate.

\$top press ... canteen fundraising efforts

The canteen that we ran at our clinic in September generated nearly \$600 in profit which is an absolutely fantastic effort. This money goes directly to helping improve our club. The result was even more impressive because we were short of volunteers and a great effort was put in by an enthusiastic bunch of our riders. We all deserve a pat on the back!



Working Bee Thursday 11th November from 4pm

We are having a working bee at the pony club grounds on Thursday November 11th, which is the Thursday before our next rally.

Jim will be at the grounds from 4 pm and we will work until dark (unless we're finished before then!). After all this rain and sunshine, we really need everyone there to get the grounds in the best shape possible for the rally. The more hands, the less work for each of us - so, please try to make it down there for at least some of the time.

Please bring all the usual equipment (whipper snippers, rakes, wheelbarrows, gloves, etc, and whatever you think might be useful). I know that Jim would appreciate if you can contact him to see what else he might need.

If you can't make it on the 11th, please contact Jim who will be able to organise jobs for you to do at a different time.

Our riders Out & About

Congratulations to all our riders who have been out and about recently.

Not everyone can place at every event, thanks to all those of you who send in news of your wins, placings and personal bests. If your name is not here, please don't be shy just send your details to Wendy or put them in the out & about book. Let us know the type of event you entered, the date, horse you were riding, and what class you rode in. AND LOTS OF PHOTOS! For personal bests - tell us what you were particularly pleased to have done on the day!

Mt Evelyn CT & Top Score SJ Day – 31st October

Alex Brooks & Millie Romei competed at Mt Evelyn on October 31. Alex placed 2nd in grade 5 CT and 3rd in Top Score (E Grade). Millie came 4th in Grade 4 CT. Well done to them both.

Lilydale PC Horse Trials – 24th October

Alex Brooks & Millie Romei competed at Lilydale Horse Trials on October 24th.

Doongala Dressage Day – 17th October

Tessa Whitfort competed at Doongala on October 17. She placed in both the test and the jackpot (she believes she came 5th).

For your calendar ...

Dressage & SJ State Qualifiers

North Metro zone will be running the state qualifiers for Dressage & Show Jumping at Upper Yarra Pony Club (Wesburn Park) on December 12. This is open to all grade 1, 2 and 3 riders. Speak to Lindy if you would like to compete at this event, to find out how you qualify and put your name down. A number of our riders have done well at this event each year, so make sure you keep this date free.

Helpers at the event ...

The zone can't run these events on their own, and they rosters each club to assist at a number of events throughout the year and Mooroolbark are rostered to help with running the Dressage rings at the state qualifiers. We will need a number of parents and riders to volunteer to on the day. Without your help, the zone couldn't run these days, and our kids would miss out.

*** October rally photos ***



Congratulations to Brenda Mitton, who received the PCAV Distinguished Service Award

Many of you would know or have heard of Brenda Mitton, who has instructed at clubs and clinics in our zone for many years. The following speech was made at a recent PCAV meeting where Brenda was awarded a distinguished service award. Even if you don't know Brenda, it is an interesting account of a very different time in the history of pony club ...

Brief history of the Pony Club life of Brenda Mitton – currently Instructor, Life member of NMZ and DCI.

The war was just over and British Pony Club either started or re-started as England was getting back to normal. The pony clubs were all attached to a Hunt club, and our nearest big hunt club was the Dartmoor Hunt. There were no pony club grounds. Rallies were held in school holidays on various farms offered by farmers who were hunting enthusiasts. They just loaned us a paddock. No dressage areas, no jumping arena or equipment and no instructors, or canteen. Very few parents attended, and those who did brought a cake or some biscuits which were shared around. They then rolled up their sleeves and involved the riders in some activities such as races, quiz games, treasure hunts and heaps and heaps of theory such as stable care, hunting etiquette, conformation and veterinary ideas for home cures. After an hour or two and a snack, we would ride home again, distances sometimes of 8, 10 or 12 miles. We would turn the ponies heads for home along the lanes and bridle paths that were abundant and just "let them go". We used to get home in record time, turn ponies into a paddock, whatever time of year, no rugs, no stables, no feed. They always lived on grass, grass and more grass. However, if you were an adult and had a hunter which you rode regularly, it was clipped, rugged and stabled throughout the hunting season, hence the emphasis on "stable care".



BRENDA MITTON receives the PCAV Distinguished Service Award

Pony Club was big on certificates. I joined age 11 and that year I took my D certificate, later my C and at 15 my B, and at 20 my A certificate. Remember this is without dressage, or jumping; BUT if you hunted regularly and went to a few shows in the summer that was the "Active riding requirement" for the tests. Examiners were important ex-army colonels, most of who were trained in the cavalry from the 1st world war. They all lived in old manor houses, with acres, hunters, stables and grooms.

They sometimes graced our pony club camps as instructors (once a year) and were always the examiners at B and A level. By the time I took my A, I was riding around England on a Lambretta motor scooter and was summoned to the Estate of Major Faudel-Philips in Exeter (about 35 miles away) to do the test. I had no way of getting my horse to his place, so I went there on my motor scooter and rode one of his hunters for the test. No way would that happen today.

At 23, I emigrated to Australia expecting to be here for 2 years before returning to England. However I so enjoyed my two years here that I stayed on, married an Australian and have lived here for 50 years. During my 2 years working around Australia, I had a job as a live-in mother's help on a big station property in Gippsland, called "The Holey Plain" with the Crooke family. Whilst there, we started the Sale Pony Club, and I was one of the inaugural instructors with that club. My first adventure with Pony Club in Australia.

Ten years and three children later in 1968 found me living in Donvale on 5 acres within riding distance to the Templestowe Pony Club. I joined up with three little boys and was talked into helping the instructors of the lowest group which was overfull with three extra riders. Within 6 months, the instructor Mrs. Wendy Heath became sick and unable to teach, so I became the instructor. I reigned as the instructor of that group for 35 years. All instructors except June James, who took the top group, were unpaid, and all instructors were mothers of children currently riding at the club. Wendy Maplestone, Merle Burns, Elsa Horn, Sue Keeble, Mrs. Nichols to name a few and all were there for many many years, and were never paid. Lorna Oakford also a current mother was secretary and was also in that position for 35 years.

At that time Miss Kay Irving was the head of the Pony Club movement and was Chief Instructor, chief everything. She was a very experienced rider, and had run a huge riding school in Waverley for many years before I came on the scene. She was passionate about kids and ponies and one Thursday each month she invited others who were also passionate about the movement into her home called "Brampton Park" at Coldstream, to discuss all things pony club. We each took our packed lunch and some activity (such as knitting) to do whilst we discussed and planned. It was known as the "Brampton Park Knitting Circle", and it was the forerunner of the DCI panel which each Zone has now. When Miss Kay became older, she appointed 5 people to take over her role. Five People!! It was known as "The Committee of five".

After many years, Clare Lewin took over the job and became a paid State Chief Instructor with an office and staff to help her. The office is known as "Irving House" after Miss Kay. Miss Kay died in her nineties, but was an active force right up until her death.

Over the years I have taken up instructing at other clubs, Ringwood 21 years, St Andrews 20+ years, Hurstbridge 19 years, KG ?15? years, Lilydale 17+years. I have also been a C & K examiner, done club visits and been on the DCI/ZA panel for over 30 years. I have attended zone meetings regularly for about 35 years, and have been Zone Chief Instructor for 3 years. Best of all, I ran along with Keitha Raabe, some wonderful camps for 10 and unders, at Dixons Creek for about 15 years and they were totally dressage and showjumping free. Instead we had activities such as treasure hunts, trail rides, navigational rides, sausage sizzles, Red Hat Concerts, discos, and Topsey gymkhanas. Helping riders to mix with others from different clubs, care for their ponies without help from their parents, being thoughtful and courteous, showing good pony club spirit and having fun with ponies was the theme of the camps. They were fabulous and only ground to a halt when the premises we used were no longer available.

The clinics for young riders has also been a favorite involvement of mine for 15+ years, and will hopefully continue to prepare the younger riders for their involvement in the eventing scene. The eventing scene has been a continuing parallel interest over the past 30 years as my son Richard was involved as an international event rider for many years. Now I am proud to have three grandchildren, all enjoying the pony club movement which has given me so much pleasure for so many years.

Horse Fact Sheets – Finding previous sheets ...

With the Lilydale Show coming up in November, this month's fact sheet gives you some hints about "in hand" showing. We hope you find it helpful.

Looking for one of our previous Fact Sheets? Over the last year, we've provided fact sheets on:

- Dressage
- Plaiting a Mane and Tail
- Showjumping
- Ailments
- Helping at Events
- Grading and Cards
- Hoof Anatomy
- Hoof Cracks
- Dressage Pencilling

Did you know that all our Fact Sheets are published on our web site, in the Fact Sheets section? There are also additional fact sheets on the pony club web site.

Horse Fact Sheets – Do you have any good ideas?

Do you have a good idea for a future fact sheet? Or maybe you've written something that could be used? Send your suggestions or inclusions to Wendy Wright. *Just make sure that anything you provide does not breach copyright rules.*

LESSONS WITH NIKKI

Nikki will be running lessons at PC on Sunday 28th November in the morning. She can be contacted on 0413 249 729. You must let her know if you plan to go.
December lessons will be on the 18th in the afternoon.

Horse fact sheets – In Hand Showing

Ringcraft

The object of the exercise is to show your horse in the best possible way so that the judge cannot fail to notice it. The most important thing you have to remember is that from the moment you enter the ring and for every moment you are in it your horse is on show. Anyone who has ever judged will tell you that there may only be one judge in the ring but there are at least ten more looking on. There may even be someone watching who will be judging your horse next time out.

Although the competition is judged according to the performance and impression of the horse on the day in the opinion of that particular judge, judges are only human and can be influenced by past impressions too. An efficient and well-turned-out exhibitor can contribute to this impression just as much as the look of the horse, so remember to dress neatly and correctly for the particular class you are entering.

The main system of showing in Australia, is based largely on the traditional British comparative method, where the competitors are judged in comparison with each other, the European system of showing, however is where the judges occupy different positions in the arena and the horse is sometimes lead around three sides of a triangle and marked by each judge, independently of the others, against an ideal standard, with the one gaining the highest marks 'winning'. The procedures in the ring are different for the two methods, so I will stick to the method most commonly used in Australia.

With all systems of judging the competition can be broken down into a number of distinct phases.

1. Before entering the ring

The art of show ring presentation:- your horse should be in the right frame of mind, having been quietly led around to settle, if excitable, and looking as good as you can possibly manage. Before you enter the ring leave enough time for the last minute touch up, wipe your horse over with a soft clean cloth, remove stray hairs and dust, and touch up the hoofs.



You will have been casting an eye over the opposition in the meantime and if you have the chance will have chosen the competitor to follow when you are instructed to enter the ring. If you have a free-going horse you may want to lead if your horse lacks presence you may want to follow one that particularly lacks it, or alternatively follow one that looks as if it is excitable or badly behaved in the hopes that some of the enthusiasm rubs off (taking care not to get kicked). The ring steward will collect your entry ticket, and it is now that presence is important, the well-known 'look at me' factor that everyone wants in a show horse. First impressions are very important and the minute you enter the ring the judge will be looking for the outstanding animals and getting a feel of the class generally with a view to choosing the first line up.

As you enter the ring make sure that your horse is leading well with the degree of activity that suits it best, that you are level with its shoulder and have a good contact with its head, that your lead rein is held securely and tidily with no trailing ends.

2. Entering the ring

In nearly all in-hand classes the leader goes on the outside of the ring and the horses circuit the ring in a clockwise direction. Allow plenty of space between your horse and the horse in front so that you are not forced to check your horse behind a slow-moving horse and so that you don't get kicked. After about two circuits of the ring you should keep an eye on the ring steward next to the judge for further instructions.

Once the class is in progress some of the phases of the competition described below may be left out at the judge's discretion.

3. The trot

In pony classes particularly, competitors may be halted on the track and asked to trot individually past the judge to the rear of the competitors. A lot depends on where the judge is standing and any faults that your horse may have as to how you deal with this.

Regardless of the type of class, at this stage the judge will be looking at the action in profile, for such things as knee action and engagement of the hocks, but the judge may be able to see the straightness of the action depending on the angle of view. Ideally you should ensure that your horse is alert and active the second you start to walk forward, the horse should be rounded and hopefully showing a reasonable length of rein rather than being over bent. At the trot it is more important than at the walk to maintain the contact with the horse via the rein. A beautifully balanced horse can trot on a loose rein without any problem, providing it has good manners, but generally it is nice to have the horse going into its bridle and trotting with you. When you start to trot balance is everything, so you should still be level with the shoulder and able to run fast enough to keep pace with the horse, rather than hanging back and pulling the horse's head around you, which can make it look as if the horse is throwing the offside foreleg.

All being well you should trot on fast enough to show off the extension of the trot without becoming unbalanced or breaking into a canter, continue around the ring so that the judge can have a good look, then return to the walk calmly before you return to the line up with the other competitors.

4. The line up

Usually the judge will call in the best first but not always. You will be expected to line up, off the track, and to remain halted until it is your turn to show your horse to the judge. If there are a lot of competitors don't be lulled into a false sense of security and let your horse go to sleep with hind legs resting, even if you think the judge may not appear to be watching they actually might be. On the other hand it is very unwise to keep nagging at a horse, because it can only concentrate for so long. Some judges find this irritating too because it is fussy and unnecessary. Teach your horse to stand properly as a habit and then allow it to relax briefly until it is its turn to exude presence. At the signal from the steward or judge walk your horse forward smartly.

5. Standing up for the judge

When called, you should walk forward away from the distraction of the other horses and halt in front of the judge. You will have a few seconds to stand your horse up so that the judge can look at the general conformation. The English traditional method requires the horse to stand with all four legs visible at once when viewed from the side. The feet should all be facing forwards. As the judge walks around to see the other side there is no need to rearrange the horse's legs.

Making the horse stand correctly is very much a matter of training and always insisting that it stands properly at home. This will develop the muscles and ligaments concerned and become more comfortable and easier to sustain. If the horse is used to having its stance adjusted one leg at a time by slight pressure on the shoulder (on the same side as the leg in question) pushing it backwards, standing it up correctly in the ring should not pose too many problems. It is better to nudge the horse backwards than to drag it forwards by the lead rein which can be misinterpreted as the signal to walk on. It also balances the horse better, bringing the hocks under the body rather than pulling the horse on to its fore, and so makes for a better outline. Once the legs are right the horse should be encouraged to reach forward slightly to show off the length of rein and then to prick its ears and look alert: the presence factor, again! This cannot be underestimated and is all the more important for a plainer horse. If the horse is utterly beautiful it just needs to be standing correctly without its head on the ground, and providing it is taking an interest in things, will show itself without needing to be fussed over.

Keeping horses alert at this stage is an art in itself and a variety of methods are used. The most popular is to pick a blade of grass, and encourage the horse to take an interest in it, this will cause the horse to focus on the grass instead of gazing around or fidgeting, you can then dictate how much it stretches its neck and the

Horse fact sheets – In Hand Showing continued

height of the head. Just as a tip when I train our stallions for showing at home, I have a sweet/lolly wrapper in my pocket and also a small treat, (apple or carrot) I offer the treat and ruffle the wrapper at the same time, after a couple of treats they associate the noise of the wrapper with a treat, eventually on hearing the (wrapper rustle) they prick their ears and extend their neck looking for the treat, in the show ring I carry the lolly wrapper and rustle it at the appropriate time. No doubt it works every time.

6. The individual show

When the judge has seen enough at the halt you will be asked to walk away, turn and then trot back past the judge and return to the line. The judge will be looking to see if the action is correct. As you walk away he will be standing behind you to watch the hind legs for cow hocks and sideways movement in the hocks, as well as wide or close action. When you turn and trot back he looks at the action in front for dishing. As you go past the judge can check the earlier impressions of knee action and hock engagement, and as you go away the judge will stand behind you and look at the hind leg action at the trot and if you trot on right round the corner he can see the action again in profile.



This is where the assessment of your horse's weaknesses and strengths really comes into its own because your horse has the judge's undivided attention. How you lead your horse is of paramount importance. Always remember to turn the horse away from you so that it remains balanced and cannot tread on you.

Bad behaviour can sometimes disguise action but if the judge is prevented from seeing your horse move you may well be asked to do it again, and subsequent failure will mean that you cannot be placed.

7. The final walk round

If the judge has difficulty deciding or wants to check something, some of the competitors may be asked to walk round the judge in a smaller circle. As before you should give yourself enough space so that your horse is not impeded or distracted by the others. At this stage you should be watching the steward beside the judge like a hawk, particularly once you have seen them conferring.

8. Calling in and the final judging

When the steward calls you in, you should walk smartly to where you were previously lined up and halt. Keep an eye on the proceedings, if you are not called in first so that you line up on the correct side of the horse called in before you. Stand your horse up immediately and concentrate on the presence factor for all you are worth while the judge walks down the line. Even if you are not the apparent winner you should not let up for a second because a pleasing aspect can sometimes result in a last minute change of place.

9. Presentation of ribbons

Whatever your final placing, when you are handed your ribbon you should thank the judge politely and look reasonably pleased even if you are disappointed. There is nothing worse than a sore loser. Male competitors should remove their hats. You can now give your horse a pat. It is common practice to leave the ring in the order in which the class was judged with the first place getter in the lead.

Original article By Mark Hanley, Archvale Pony Stud, VP Albury Show Society Inc., as published on the PCAV web site



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