

# Mooroolbark PONY CLUB NEWSLETTER

**October 2011**  
**NEXT RALLY SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> October**

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## *FAMILIES ON DUTY – NEXT RALLY*

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

**Moore**

**Winter**

## *UPCOMING EVENTS and REMINDERS*

***Mooroolbark PC Rally***

***9<sup>th</sup> October***

***Doongala PC Dressage Day***

***16<sup>th</sup> October***

***Nunawading PC CTD & Dressage Day***

***23<sup>rd</sup> October***

***Lilydale PC Showjumping Day***

***23<sup>rd</sup> October***

***Mountain District PC Dressage Day***

***30<sup>th</sup> October***

***Mt Evelyn PC Twilight SJ***

***Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November***

***Mooroolbark PC Derby (Hickstead)***

***6<sup>th</sup> November***

***Mooroolbark PC Rally***

***13<sup>th</sup> November***

***Monbulk PC Combined Training Day***

***20<sup>th</sup> November***

***Mt Evelyn PC Derby***

***20<sup>th</sup> November***

***Upper Yarra PC SJ Day***

***27<sup>th</sup> November***

*Check the PCAV web site for entry forms, and more details on these, and other events.*

[www.ponyclubvic.org.au](http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au)

## MOOROOLBARK PONY CLUB

### FAMILIES ON DUTY - ROSTER

July	Kanen	Drennan	Wright
August	McKinnon	Henchley	O'Neill
September		Dalsanto	Goss
October	Moore	Scott	Winter
November	Catley	Wright	Pepper
December	Bourke	Harper	Laukart
2011 February	Howes	Russell	
March	Henchley	Goss	
April	Moore	Winter	
May	Laukart	O'Neill	
June	Pepper		
July	Robbins	Wright	
August			
September	Catley	Whitfort	
<b>October</b>	<b>Moore</b>	<b>Winter</b>	
<b>November</b>	<b>Laukart</b>	<b>O'Neill</b>	
<b>December</b>	<b>Henchley</b>	<b>Vaughan</b>	

### 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

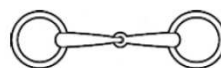
### Changes to the roster?

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!*



DC's Report – October Rally 2011

Well another month has passed and as we are getting closer to Rally Day the weather has turned again, the weather man mustn't be getting my emails requesting fine weather!

After last rally I have come to realise that you guys will ride in any conditions so it really doesn't matter what sort of day we get. Well done to all those riders who stuck it out last rally, you need to be congratulated.

This rally we have *invited Ringwood PC to join us* and they have kindly offered to host us at one of their rallies as well (they do the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday so you will have an opportunity to get some different experience under your belts). In order to organise the groups I really need to know who is coming and who isn't, could I please ask **everyone to notify me if they are a YES or NO** either by text (0418 392 004) or by email ([dpgoss@dodo.com.au](mailto:dpgoss@dodo.com.au)) ASAP.

Fingers crossed we will get some good drying weather so we can utilise all the XC, I had hoped to have SJ on the grass so we can have the gravel arena dedicated to flat, well that's the plan, only time will tell. We also plan to do a Handy Mount and Old English Plate as a bit of fun, something different.

Can I please ask everyone to be on time and if anyone can come earlier to help set up (apart from those already rostered on), that would be really appreciated. Mooroolbark is a great club with great members and I'm sure we'd all like to show it off to Ringwood PC.

See you all Sunday

Roz

*A warm welcome to Ringwood Riders !*

**As Roz mentioned, Ringwood are joining us for our October rally and have offered reciprocal arrangements for the future. It's a great way for us all to share our fantastic resources and knowledge by sharing the occasional rally.**

**Please make the Ringwood parents and riders very welcome. If we can get some extra parents to help set up at the start of the day, to help things run smoothly, it would be appreciated.**

# 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!*

*Leo and I competed at **Glenbrae Freshman's** on the 28th of August, Leo jumped clean in both the 60 and 70cm rounds. Very happy with him at his first outing.*

On the 18th of September Kal and I went to **Eltham Show jumping day** in C grade we competed in one round stakes and Equitation. Placing 3rd and 2nd consecutively. 4th overall.

I was very pleased with the result as it was a bit of last minute thing, originally I was meant to be competing Leo in D grade for his first pony club outing but I found him lame in the paddock the morning of, so ever faithful Kal was there to save the day! Also competing on the day was Chelsea and her pony gypsy in E grade not sure of her results.

*And I very happy to announce that Scoobie is doing fantastic with his new little rider Jess from Ringwood Pony Club, she recently competed at Ringwood pre royal coming home with 2 Champions and many other placings (cleaning up for the day lots of smiles all round). Jess was also at Eltham and placed 5th in F grade one round stakes. I am very happy with his new home and I'm sure everyone will be seeing him out and about in the new future!*



**Lauren Howes**

No photos this month, so just this reminder of our trail ride in the sun in August ...





Rally start time is still 10 am (gear check at 9:45) for the October rally.

BUT don't forget that daylight savings starts on Sunday 2nd October – so it's still going to feel like an early start ...

## **LESSONS WITH NIKKI**

Nikki will be running lessons at PC on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October in the afternoon. She can be contacted on 0413 249 729. You **MUST** let her know if you plan to go.

## **Mooroolbark Derby**

We'll need all hands on deck for the Derby coming up in November.

We'll be looking for volunteers to man the gates and the canteen, as well as all the usual jobs.



# **LILYDALE HORSELAND**

## **DERBY & SHOWJUMPING DAY**

Cnr MOOROOLBARK & HULL Rds, MOOROOLBARK Melways 38 A9

**Sunday November 6th 2011**

Hi everyone

Hope you have your entries in for the ~~Hickstead~~ Derby competition on November 6<sup>th</sup>

A reminder that the Mooroolbark cross country course will be closed to all riders from three weeks before the Derby, as per competition requirements.

# Horse fact sheets – Helping at Events

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*One of the important functions of pony club is to run events and competitions to enable riders to get experience and fun from doing more than just attending rallies. These events are run by various clubs within a zone, or by the zone itself. The zone and clubs rely heavily on volunteers to make the events run smoothly. This is no different for our club – if everyone volunteers to do a job, no one person has to carry a huge load.*

*For those new to pony club, getting involved in volunteering at your club's events is a great way to learn more about what goes on at competitions and this can be a great help to your own children in their enjoyment of riding. We also encourage riders to volunteer – not only because it can be fun – but it can be instructional watching how other riders prepare and participate in an event. However it can be a bit daunting if you are assigned a job that you haven't done before, and we have put these notes together to help you.*

## **General Guidelines**

**Following are a number of jobs that might be typically assigned at a competition or event, and the basic requirements for fulfilling those jobs.** Of course, different types of events may be run slightly differently, sometimes some roles are combined or split and you should take note of any specific instructions you are given by the club. But if you are ever assigned a job that you are uncertain about, don't be afraid to speak to the organiser – they are usually more than willing to help you.

At many events, there are briefing sessions that are held to give instructions around what is required. Listen out for these, or check with the organiser.

At some events you may be given a walky-talky or similar for communication purposes. These should be used for valid reasons only, and over-use is discouraged. They should be used in an emergency, eg to seek medical assistance.

Don't be afraid to speak up if you feel something is unsafe. The organiser may not have noticed something that has been missed or become a problem.

Be cautious in giving advice to riders if you are not qualified to do so – they may rely upon your answer when they should have checked out something themselves. A common question going into a dressage ring, is “am I allowed to carry a whip in this test?” – unless you are sure, you are better to direct the rider to get the right answer rather than risk them being disqualified by wrong advice.

*Note that there are many more jobs that are required at an event ... for example, Penciller, Cross Country Judge, Secretary – these will be covered in later editions – but if you are looking for answers earlier, the pcav web site has some excellent information, particularly regarding Cross Country Judging.*

### **Event Organiser**

This is the person who has been designated to run the event – they are often very busy in both the lead up and on the day as they need to ensure that all runs smoothly, and are very reliant on getting as much help as they can. It is out of scope to outline the details of this role here, but two points to note:

1. There are some basic guidelines for running a competition on the pcav web site in the Resources section
2. If you are volunteering at an event, this is your go-to when you don't know who else to ask!

### **Cross Country Judge**

At horse trials and similar events, a number of people are normally needed to act as Cross Country (XC) judges during the XC phase of the event. This is an important role responsible for assessing and recording the faults made by each competitor at the XC obstacle.

We stress that the following is a summarised overview of tips for XC judges – there is a very good detailed guide on the PCAV web site and we strongly encourage you to download a copy and print off some of the pages.

- There is normally a briefing for XC judges where you will be given specific details about procedures for the day and you will be assigned to one or more of the obstacles
- Type of obstacles include fences, jumps, water, ditches, or combinations of these
- You may want to bring your own folding seat, and ensure you have something to eat/drink and rain/sun clothing, as you may be at your position for a period of time.
- Choose a position near the jump that has a clear view of both sides of the obstacle, but ensure you are out of the way of any potential lines of approach. Make sure that you are visible to rider & horse to avoid startling them.
- You will be given some type of scoresheet to record competitors as they come through and to note the results of their efforts. You should include your name and the obstacle number
- When recording rider numbers, don't write numbers down until the competitor has come past you – it is important that you record them in the sequence that they present to the obstacle.
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### **Crash crew**

The crash crew are normally required for showjumping events to rebuild jumps that have been knocked down. Usually this will be for BOTH the main ring, and the warm up ring or areas.

- Crash crew should wait outside the main jumping area until they are needed.
- It may be possible for the crew to go into the ring to start repairing a jump before the rider and horse have left the arena, HOWEVER you should look to the judge or instructor for direction on this – safety of everyone is the first priority.
- When a jump is badly crashed, it may be necessary for the judge or instructor to re-check the heights and safety after it is rebuilt. Check with them if you are not sure.
- The same applies to the warm up area – often this is overlooked and may become a safety hazard because bystanders inadvertently rebuild the jump without keeping safety in mind.
- The crash crew may assist the judge with changing jumps between classes – but the judge will always re-check jumps as they are responsible for ensuring the safe structure and height.
- It is good practice to make sure that spare poles and other parts are stored safely out of the way until they are needed

## **Horse fact sheets – Helping at Events (continued)**

### **Ring Marshall**

Most events have one or more “rings” where a competition (or instruction) takes place, along with an area that has been set aside for riders to warm up. Basically, the ring marshall keeps a record of which riders have presented for their session, ensures that riders ride in the pre-allotted sequence, and that the area is kept orderly, with not too many horses and riders congregating in one area.

- Usually you will be given a running sheet to tick off riders as they go through
- Riders should go into the warm up area in sequence, following your direction.
- Keep an eye on proceedings in the main ring and let the next rider know when they should be preparing to go in. The judge or instructor may let you know if they want this “sped up” or slowed down.
- If there is a gate your job is to open and close that as needed. Gates should be kept closed where possible for safety.
- You may need to call up riders who have not presented to you as yet, sometimes you may need to be in contact with the organiser to find out if a rider has actually scratched.
- The judge or instructor must give their approval if a rider wishes to ride out of sequence
- For safety (and fairness to riders) you may need to limit the number of riders in the warm up area. Check with the judge/instructor / organiser if you are unsure what a reasonable limit should be – but don’t be afraid to use your judgement to ensure safety.
- Similarly, you should discourage too many horses waiting around to go into the warm up area. If a ring is running late, provide that feedback to the riders.
- The organiser may want you to be in touch with them periodically regarding progress of the ring you are marshalling (eg running ahead, behind) so they can make announcements

### **Gear Check**

Gear check is a very important role in terms of checking the safety and compliance of gear that a horse is presented with. It’s probably not the best job for someone new to pony club to do on their own, but a great job to learn alongside a more experienced person, to be able to help your child in future competitions.

- The gear checker is required to check that the rider’s gear is compliant with pony club rules, and not unsafe (eg worn).
- There are very comprehensive gear check guidelines on the pcav web site, as well as a checklist for competitions. You need to be familiar with the latest version of these (they do change).
- If gear is not compliant, or safe, the rider needs to correct it before they can be given the ok to ride. If there is a parent or helper with them, get them involved in the discussion.
- Be aware that questioning a person’s gear can become a very “hot” topic and if you want a second opinion, just ask the organiser or another club adult.
- Usually you will be given a running sheet to tick off riders as they have presented for gear check. You will also be given a sticker or some other method of giving the rider confirmation that they presented for that gear check.
- The check list and the sticker together are a cross-check that the rider presented for gear check – it is very important to get this right because a rider may be eliminated for failure to gear check.
- When the rider presents, you should cross-check their number and name with the information on the sheet.
- Gear check is normally required to be repeated for each phase of competition, and this should be stated in the competition rules





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