

Chairpersons Report

I have great pleasure in presenting this report to the members of Pony Club WA.

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge my 2019 fellow board members who, as volunteers, have made valuable contributions to Pony Club WA with not only their time, but their skills and areas of expertise to ensure our organisation operates in a professional manner. This is clear in the recently completed Board Review conducted by Sports Australia (SA) and the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI) where our overall assessment score is above the average of the high performing sports boards. Whilst there remains four key areas of attention and improvement, we are looking forward to undertaking further training and recruiting in these areas.

Some of our Board members have been proactive in attending several training programmes run by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries. These training programmes allow us to keep our Association on the cutting edge and best practice of legislative requirements and governance for association in Western Australia.

The Board were successful in recruiting two new board members Karl Stokes (Casual vacancy) and Steve Frantom (Appointed member) after the 2018 AGM.

The Pony Club WA Strategic Plan 2019 – 2021 which will steer our organisation for the next three years was formulated using feedback gathered from the member's survey and has given the board an insight into what members need and want for Pony Club WA into the future.

Both the Audit and Finance and Governance and Risk committees work very hard ensuring that Pony Club WA is up to date with all matters regarding governance, finance and risk management. This is vitally important to ensure the health of our organisation as we are held accountable for our actions.

On behalf of Pony Club WA, I would like to acknowledge our sponsors and thank you for your continued support of our youth organisation. These are Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSCI), Healthway, Go for 2 & 5, Gallagher, Horseland, Careers in Racing, Milnes Feeds, Government of Western Australia and Off the Track. We look forward to your continued support in 2020.



Our 2019 Board was supported by CEO Trudi Hall, whose dedication to our organisation is admirable. Trudi was supported by her wonderful office staff, Lou Hardwick, Madi Kenward, Aimee Troy, Sally Mayall and Amber Rose McQueen. The Board wish to thank sincerely the dedication that our office staff have shown throughout the year and look forward to their continued support in 2020.

2019 commenced with the 2018 Annual awards night which enabled us to celebrate the successes of such deserving riders, coaches, volunteers and clubs in a friendly atmosphere at the Telethon Community Cinema in Murdoch. This was a new look awards night, of which many members took up the opportunity to remain at the end of the evening to watch the movie.

The 2019 Pony Club WA AGM and Member Forum was held on Saturday March 16th. The Board understands that selecting a

date for the AGM and member forum is a difficult task, however, it is an opportunity for our members to engage and network with other clubs, zones and the Board.

The 2019 AGM was conducted in the most professional manner with club delegates and proxies voting on the re-election of Deborah Spencer and election of Ann-Marie Lowry. The board and delegates farewelled Kevin Gianatti, Judy Rose and Rebecca Claxon and thanked them for their terms on the board.

The member's forum was very informative for those delegates in attendance, where many topics were discussed in detail. Some of the topics discussed were Insurance, the Pony Club WA website, Handbook and changes to the Pony Club Australia syllabus. Many questions were asked, and all were answered in an informative and open manner.

The State Coaching Panel, Gear Checking Advisory Panel and Discipline Sport committees have had a very constructive year ably supported by the Pony Club WA CEO and office staff. The list of tasks for all is immense, with some of their tasks including developing their sports, gear and rule amendments and officials training.

The State Coaching School was again held at Karinya Equestrian Park in Orange Grove. Numbers of coaches attending remain high and with such a diverse programme, there was something for everyone.

State Championship events were held in all disciplines across our great State from the Show Jumping and Dressage at the State Equestrian Centre in Brigadoon to the Eventing Championships in Dardanup, and the PPMG's in Serpentine. All clubs and zones had the opportunity to showcase their riders and make many new friends at these well-run events.

The 2019 Pony Club National Championships were hosted by NSW at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre. Pony Club WA was represented by a team of 31 riders competing across all disciplines. By all reports WA riders displayed high levels of behaviour and sportsmanship as well as achieving fantastic results. This national event enables riders and parents to return home with many wonderful memories, new friendships and stories to share.

2019 was the year for the Pony Club Festival which was hosted by Avon Valley Horse and Pony Club in Northam. This event was attended by many up and coming younger pony club members with many smiling faces and very cute ponies!

The Pony Club Australia National meeting was held in May in Darwin which saw representatives from each State and Territory come together to attend the PCA AGM, member forum, a sneak peek of the new PCA workbooks, which has now been released, along with guest presenters. This annual meeting allows state delegates and PCA Board members the opportunity to network face to face.

The Pony Club WA vision is to be the equestrian organisation of choice for the youth of Western Australia where we can engage, inspire, educate and unite our members through a mutual love of horses. The Board of Pony Club WA understand the need to encourage young people to ride whilst enjoying all approved kinds of sport connected with horses and riding. With the launch of the new syllabus we can provide instruction in riding and horse mastership with an ethically based Equitation Science background to instil in members the proper care of their animals. We look forward to promoting the highest ideals of fellowship, citizenship and loyalty, and cultivating strength of character and self-discipline in our members.

Deborah Spencer

Chair of the 2019 Board of Pony Club WA