



PONY CLUB
WESTERN AUSTRALIA



ANNUAL REPORT 2023



The Pony Club is an international youth organisation dedicated to providing opportunities for young people that are interested in horses, ponies and riding. Pony Clubs exist to promote the holistic development of young people by encouraging sportsmanship and good citizenship. Through pony club, opportunities are provided to young riders to gain knowledge and become proficient in their chosen equestrian sport.

The Pony Club movement started in the United Kingdom in 1929 with the stated aim of encouraging young people to learn to ride and enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding.

The first Pony Club in Western Australia was established in 1959. Pony Club Western Australia (Pony Club WA) is the recognised state sporting organisation representing the interests of 12 zones, 55 clubs and over 3311 members.

OUR VISION

To be the equestrian organisation of choice for the youth of Western Australia.

OUR MISSION

To engage, inspire, educate and unite our members through a mutual love of horses.

OUR AIMS

To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all approved kinds of sport connected with horses and riding.

To provide instruction in riding and horsemastership and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.

To promote the highest ideals of fellowship, citizenship and loyalty, and to cultivate strength of character and self-discipline.

In the spirit of reconciliation, Pony Club WA acknowledges the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their elders past and present and extend that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples today.



Association Positions

2023 BOARD

Chair
Vice Chair
State Coaching Panel Member
Directors

Karl Stokes/Kate McCarthy
Amelia Thomas/Nadine Bennett
Dianne Colley
Amelia Thomas
Ann-Marie Lowry
Bronwyn Weir
Jennifer Kobulniczky-Duncan
Vanessa Symons

2023 AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Amelia Thomas
Vanessa Symons
Kate McCarthy
Rick Gill

2023 GOVERNANCE AND RISK COMMITTEE

Ann-Marie Lowry
Bronwyn Weir
Nadine Bennett
Dianne Colley

2023 STAFF

CEO
Accounts
Marketing & Sponsorship Officer
Development Officer
Sports Administrator
Membership Administration

Rick Gill/Tanya Appleby
Ian Tate/Grace Passmore
Madison Treloar/Wanda Longley
Sally Mayall
Tanya Appleby
Vanessa Fuchsbichler-Barrey

2023 STATE COMMITTEE/PANEL CHAIRS

State Coaching Panel
Gear Check Advisory Panel
Active Riding
Dressage
Eventing
Hickstead/Hunter Trials
Showjumping
Tetrathlon

Natasha Naylor
Dianne Ould
Kylie Hall
Linda Page
Julie Cameron
Dianne Ould
Kristy Rae
Lisa Maxwell

STATE LIFE MEMBERS FROM THE 2022 AGM

Jan Lawrie, Kevin Gianatti, Sue Britza and Wanda Longley.



Chairperson's Report

This past year has been successful yet challenging one for the team at Pony Club WA, with a busy schedule of events, a change in leadership, and hosting of the 2023 Nationals.

I am pleased to report that we have achieved significant progress in several key areas:

- In 2023, Pony Club WA was host of the National Championships; an exciting event to celebrate all disciplines within Pony Club. To encourage increased participation of this great event, we trialed a hybrid competition format, offering a combination of in-person and virtual competitions running throughout hubs across Australia. While this new format presented some challenges for our staff and riders alike, it allowed for greater participation for all riders across Australia with record participation numbers. We will use feedback from this event to continue developing the Pony Club Nationals for future host states.
- In 2023 WA members gain international representation across the disciplines of Active Riding, Dressage and Showjumping.
- Following a significant financial loss to the association in 2022, we are pleased to have improved the financial stability of the association, as outlined in the 2023 financial report. The board and management have put measures in place to improve the financial security of Pony Club WA, with better visibility and a more collaborative approach across all committees.



Of course, we also faced some challenges along the way, including a change to our leadership team. Rick Gill stepped down as CEO after 3.5 years with Pony Club WA and we would like to thank him for his leadership and contribution and wish him the best as he moves on to other endeavours. I would also like to thank Tanya Appleby for stepping in as Acting CEO, taking on this role during a busy and challenging time for the association. I would like to recognise the incredible efforts of our staff, Tanya, Vanessa, Sally and Wanda, who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure the success of our events and programs during this transition.

We are pleased to have Tanya Appleby appointed into the role of General Manager in early 2024 and we look forward to working with her to develop Pony Club WA events and initiatives.

Our success wouldn't be possible without the support of our wonderful volunteers, and I'd like to express my sincere thanks to our committees, coaches and officials who volunteer their time to run our events and programs throughout the year. You are the heart and soul of Pony Club WA, and your contributions make a significant difference in the Pony Club community.

The Pony Club WA board have also farewelled some long-standing members - our previous Chair, Karl Stokes, along with Casey Pearce and Dianne Colley during 2023. Ann-Marie Lowry, Vanessa Symons, and Amelia Thomas will also finish their term on the board at this Annual General Meeting. These board members have volunteered many years to Pony Club WA, and we would like to sincerely thank them for their contributions. Nadine Bennett and I were appointed to the board in August, and we are pleased to join the team of staff and volunteers that help develop grassroots equestrian, providing opportunities to our young riders to gain knowledge and become proficient in their chosen equestrian sport.

Kate McCarthy
Chair of the 2023 Board
Pony Club WA

Our Board

The role of the volunteer Board is to represent and promote the interests of members and Clubs within Western Australia at local, state and a national level. Each Director is equally responsible for the proper management, corporate governance, and compliance of the Association in the best interests of our members and the Association as a whole.

KATE MCCARTHY

Chairperson

Some of my favourite childhood memories are of riding and Pony Club. I rode at Lion Mill Farm before joining Eastern Hills Pony Club at about 16 years old. It was especially good as a training opportunity for the young horses. I loved the team events, competing in both eventing and showjumping team competitions.

Having recently graduated from the Australian Institute of Company Directors, I am keen to join the Pony Club WA team and to contribute to developing the sport to ensure its' longevity for the next generation of riders.

My day job is General Manager of Energy Club WA.

My favourite non-equestrian thing I like to do is going for a run and hiking.

NADINE BENNETT

Vice Chairperson

AMELIA THOMAS

Director

Amelia's dedication to Pony Club WA spans nearly two decades, beginning in the Pilbara region. Her journey has seen her transition from a junior committee member to an associate and now, a Preliminary level coach. Her commitment extended to the State Dressage Committee, where she served from 2017 to 2019.

Her voluntary contributions have not gone unnoticed, earning her the Pony Club WA Citizenship Award in 2017 and the Dressage Coach of the Year Award in 2018. With a Bachelor of Commerce & Arts in Human Resource Management, Accounting, Politics & International Relations from the University of Notre Dame, Amelia brings a wealth of knowledge to her role on the board. She envisions her board position as a continuation of her growth and contribution to the club.

Amelia aspires for Pony Club WA to flourish as a premier youth sporting organization, nurturing the equestrian talents of Western Australia's youth.

ANN-MARIE LOWRY

Director

Ann-Marie is an advocate of the idea that Pony Club can enhance its service delivery across all levels by fostering a culture of openness, transparency, and encouragement. She advocates for the distribution of roles and responsibilities among a wider group to ensure a more manageable workload, widespread knowledge transfer, and smoother advancement for all members.

BRONWYN WEIR

Director

DIANNE COLLEY

Director & Appointed State Coaching Panel Representative

Dianne has always had a special place for horses in her life since the age of 4 years but did not actually have any horses until she was 14 years old. She accomplished all her certificates up to and including B and then did her A certificate here in Perth when she came over for a holiday. Now here, she is 42 years later.

She then began coaching at Pony Club from the age of 19 years and completed her EA Level 1 and 2 Coaching. Dianne loves coaching at Pony Club to give back what she has learnt and to see the children grow and improve with their horses/ponies.

Dianne has coached over many years and then had a break for a while where she raised 2 sons as well as studied and worked as a Vet Nurse for 15 years. She is now coaching at Gidgegannup Horse and Pony Club as Chief Coach and enjoys the challenges that come with that position.

Dianne is a PCANCAS Pony Club Level 1 Coach. An examiner for C, C* & K certificates. A Coach Educator and examiner for Preliminary and Level 1 Coaches.

JENNIFER KOBULNICZKY-DUNCAN

Director

VANESSA SYMONS

Director

Vanessa's early years were enriched by her involvement in a pony club in New Zealand, an experience she holds dear as one of her childhood's most fulfilling pursuits. Her equestrian journey continued in Australia with the Walliston Riding and Pony Club, where she once again found a rewarding community.

Her commitment to the equestrian world deepened when her daughter began horse riding, leading them to the Horsemen's Pony Club. Vanessa quickly became an integral part of the club, serving as treasurer in their first year and subsequently joining the Pony Club WA board.

With a background as a technology consulting partner, Vanessa possesses extensive corporate expertise in areas such as accounting, finance, IT, human resources, and governance and risk. She is poised to draw upon this wealth of experience to contribute strategically to the board's initiatives.



Chief Executive Officer's Report

It is with immense pride and a profound sense of responsibility that I take over the role as the CEO of Pony Club WA. Pony Club is not just an organisation; it is a vibrant youth movement that shapes the leaders of tomorrow. It is here, amidst the camaraderie and challenges, that we instil the values of compassion, empathy, and integrity in our young members. These are not just words; they are the pillars upon which we build good citizens who will lead our community and our association towards a brighter future.



I would like to thank the Board, Rick, Vanessa, Sally, Wanda, the Nationals Taskforce and our officials and volunteers for their unwavering support to enable us to deliver all of our core business, our State Championships and a successful National Championship. Hosting the Petstock PCA National Championships as a hybrid event was a huge undertaking for our small team. Using an entry system that was not designed for such a complex event added additional challenges. 2023 certainly tested us! We finished the year with a much smaller team than we had started with. Our journey has been nothing short of extraordinary and is a testament to our collective dedication and spirit.

In the second half of 2023, our Pony Club WA leaders have begun a concerted effort to focus on providing greater support, information and relevance to our individual clubs and new members. The grassroots activities, leadline families and new members must enjoy success at Pony Club and we are aiming to deliver this outcome to the best of our ability.

As we move forward, our focus will be nurturing our values through active member engagement and by celebrating the heart of our association – our volunteers. Their tireless efforts and unwavering support continue to be the backbone of our success. Together, we aim to create an environment where every member feels valued, heard, and motivated to achieve their best. In closing, I invite each one of your families to join me on this exciting journey. Let us work hand in hand to make Pony Club WA a beacon of excellence and a home where every young equestrian can thrive.

“A life with horses starts here.”

Tanya Appleby
Chief Executive Officer



Strategic Plan

OUR 2021-2024 STRATEGIC AIMS

VOLUNTEERS	MEMBERSHIP	SUPPORTING CLUBS	COMPLEXITY	BRAND	FUNDING & FINANCES	TECHNOLOGY
Improving training and introducing initiatives to retain our volunteers.	Attracting more new members whilst retaining more of our existing members.	Support for club committees to ensure our clubs continue to be a fun, inviting place to be.	Reducing complexity to ensure our volunteers, coaches, officials, and participants continue to be engaged with Pony Club	Promoting Pony Club WA's unique and distinctive brand for maximum benefit.	Becoming self-sufficient and reducing our reliance on government funding.	Making the most of IT to simplify and reduce the burden on our members, and staff.

OUR VISION

To be the equestrian organisation of choice for the youth of Western Australia

OUR MISSION

To engage, inspire, educate, and unite our members through a mutual love of horses.

OUR AIMS

- To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all approved kinds of sport connected with horses and riding.
- To provide instruction in riding and horse-mastership and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.
- To promote the highest ideals of fellowship, citizenship, and loyalty, and to cultivate strength of character and self-sport.

VALUES

- **Community** We are committed to Pony Club and care for the wider community.
- **Respect** For ourselves and others, our horses and ponies, the environment.
- **Integrity** Honesty and transparency always.
- **Diversity** We are inclusive and recognise everyone's equestrian journey is different.

FOUNDATIONS

- Pony Club WA is a youth centric organisation where young people learn to ride and care for their horses and ponies.
- We are part of the National and International Pony Club Community and exist to serve the needs of our members.
- A priority to focus on good governance, managing risk, and financial viability.

GROWTH AND SUSTAINABILITY

Expanding the membership services offered while maintaining our social licence to operate.

SUCCESS FACTORS

Increased membership, more clubs, streamlined services and reduced risks.

OBJECTIVE	INITIATIVES	CURRENT SUCCESS FACTORS
a. Membership categories provide options for all those who wish to participate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review and streamline membership offerings to ensure there is a category to cater for all people to participate 	All categories reviewed and implemented
b. Attract and retain members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Further develop State Squads and Development Squads ○ Develop a stronger relationship between Riding Centre Members of PCA to attract these members to Pony Clubs ○ Support and promote fun & engaging activities within Pony Club events. ○ Promote national and international participation opportunities for riders, coaches, and officials. ○ Improve the number of riders earning Proficiency Certificates ○ Develop and promote Ready2Ride 	<p>Squads developed.</p> <p>Nationals conducted; members given opportunity to represent Australia in Quiz</p> <p>Number of riders completing Proficiency certificates is improving. Ready2Ride implemented</p>
c. Better manage risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop injury reporting processes and review mechanisms. ○ Risk and governance committee to keep up to date with all areas of risk. ○ Develop an event risk and control process from Club level to State level to better manage risks. ○ Develop risk management tools for club to manage risk. ○ Engage with other organisations to keep abreast of and address emerging risks and issues 	<p>Injury reporting implemented and statistics being collated internally.</p> <p>Risk and Governance committee developed Risk Plan.</p> <p>Continue to work with EWA on issues and risks.</p>
d. Retain and attract clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop support programs for all clubs, recognising the special needs of regional clubs. ○ Identify potential new clubs and develop presentation package to encourage affiliation to Pony Club WA ○ Consider North-West specific member packages ○ Review Zone Structures 	<p>Working with a NW club to re-affiliate</p> <p>Remaining 2 members of a zone have agreed to move to a larger zone</p>
e. Enhance financial sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Build and maintain strong mutually beneficial partnerships with funding bodies 	Continue to meet with all of our funding stakeholders
f. Ensure Pony Club WA is aligned to Child Safe principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Develop Working With Children guidelines for clubs. ○ Work with Dept Local Government Sport and Culture and SportWest to ensure current policies align to Child Safe principles 	Better working with children processes being developed

ENGAGEMENT AND RECOGNITION

To connect and communicate with stakeholders at all levels.

To recognise diversity and needs of stakeholders.

SUCCESS FACTORS

More informed members, membership is consulted and contributes, volunteers are more efficient, value of Pony Club is recognised externally, members are recognised and rewarded for their achievements.

OBJECTIVE	INITIATIVES	CURRENT SUCCESS FACTORS
a. Improve Communication with membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and implement effective two-way communication to all stakeholders Maximise use of social media Survey membership regularly Regular Board engagement with members at events and club meetings/functions 	<p>Increase in Social Media presence</p> <p>Website improvements</p> <p>Surveys implemented</p>
b. Develop engagement platforms for members and committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Member forum to be held mid-year using technology and face to face Facilitate annual joint state committee meeting Opportunity for Associate members to contribute to Board and committees 	<p>Increased member involvement in Pony Club WA</p>
c. Improve services through promotion and effective use of IT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion and use of online services, particularly for regional clubs Promote the use of webinars to deliver training Better use of the coaches and officials' facility of our database Review and improve administrative processes of the state office and clubs through better use of technology and automation 	<p>Clubs all using online memberships</p> <p>More webinars for training and information</p> <p>Coaches all online and registered in database</p>
d. Recognise achievements and contribution of members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the end-to-end process for our State Annual Awards Promote awards for our riders, coaches, and officials outside of Pony Club Recognise the work of volunteers at all levels club, committees, SCP, Board 	<p>Annual awards held at SEC</p> <p>New award categories to better recognise members achievements</p>
e. External recognition of Pony Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress Recognition for Prior learning (RPL) for Proficiency Certificates within TAFE Explore options to become a Registered Training Organisation Remain engaged with Curriculum Council to ensure proficiency certificates are recognised for community contribution Promote value of Pony Club as a pathway to a career in equine industry for Associate Members 	<p>RPL for certificates being progressed through TAFE</p> <p>Contribute to Curriculum Council on changes to Certificate structure</p> <p>Member of Racing Industry reference group</p>
f. Ensure Pony Club continues to be inclusive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop indigenous engagement initiatives that educate members, encourage reconciliation, and provide opportunities for increased indigenous membership Promote Sports Connect initiative 	<p>Indigenous strategy commenced</p>

PEOPLE AND CULTURE

Developing our clubs, members, volunteers, and employees at all levels in line with our values.

SUCCESS FACTORS

Pony Club WA is seen as a leader in good governance, our clubs are better managed and resourced, happy members, happy kids.

OBJECTIVE	INITIATIVES	CURRENT SUCCESS FACTORS
a. Ensure our Committees and Board are effective and our clubs are well managed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and promote governance training and education opportunities for Board, State Committees and Club Committees Develop resources and process that assists our clubs to be better managed such as online resources, club visits and capability surveys Introduce a Nominations Committee at Board level Introduce Youth membership at Board and committee levels 	<p>Attendance at courses and information provided for training</p> <p>Nomination committee formed</p>
b. More effective Coaching and Officiating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards all coaches to be PCA accredited, including recognition for prior learning (RPL) Develop resources and processes that assist our coaches and officials Provide training opportunities for coaches and officials Officials' pathways and resources developed to ensure consistency 	<p>SCP continue to deliver courses and training</p> <p>SCP and committees working towards training resources, and providing training seminars and webinars</p> <p>Working with PCA on officials and training</p>
c. Build capacity of our volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a handbook Create better resources for volunteers Review Member Protection, disputes and disciplinary process and procedures More support for Zone volunteers 	<p>Handbook in development</p> <p>Working With Children processes being redeveloped</p> <p>Policies reviewed and developed</p>
d. Create a culture based on our values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create materials to back up the values and work with all levels to instil the values 	<p>Awards reflect Pony Club values.</p> <p>Promotion and social media reflect Pony Club values</p>



Ongoing Projects

High Performance Program

Pony Club WA with the support of The Races WA have continued to provide State High Performance Squads which assists with increasing skill, knowledge and experiences to riders achieving high levels of performance.

This continued initiative aims to increase participation in disciplines and encourages rider and mount combinations with the potential to compete in higher levels of sport and develops riders in preparation for Pony Club Australia National and International Events.

Pony Club WA currently offer the following State Squads leading support from our State Sport Committees:

- Active Riding
- Dressage
- Eventing
- Showjumping
- Tetrathlon

Each Discipline has a selection criterion which is met by each rider before attaining a position on their nominated squad.

An exclusive section of the Pony Club WA website was created to highlight State Squads and gain great engagement with members, this creates a readily available and easy avenue to access event dates, resources for member and lots of other information to assist members with their time on the squad.

2023 saw many members being selected to represent in each State Squad. Members developed further skills, gained wonderful friendships amongst each other, and challenged their ridden and theory knowledge along the way.

2023 also saw the continuation of Online Training Workshops to provide additional learning opportunities for our members.

Pony Club WA is excited to continue the initiative again for 2024 assisting with the High-Performance Pathway and educating riders with an aim to attend and compete at National and International Events .



The Pony Club WA High Performance Program is proudly supported by **The Races WA**.



Healthway Projects



Healthway is a major partner of Pony Club WA through the Go for 2&5 message.

As well as supporting our State Championship Program and Festival, Healthway supports healthy initiatives and activities which encourage our members to live a healthy lifestyle through education about healthy food choices.

These activities fall under the Race Around the State programs which are delivered to clubs. Clubs then earn RATS “kilometres” based on a range of activities that encourages healthy lifestyles and behaviours. This has grown in popularity through over the past few years which it to the success of increased online activities.

This proved to work well moving the Go for 2&5 Healthy Quiz to an online survey format, as well as introducing our new Go for 2&5 Virtual Canteen and Quiz Competition.

The Virtual Canteen provided members an opportunity to share how they wish to see their club canteen by submitting their DREAM CANTEEN. Members were encouraged to submit 5 green, 3 amber and 1 red food and beverage item/s.

Quiz Competition has been a huge success with members of all ages being able submit answers to the quiz, this was run monthly and gave the members 50 Kms each submission.

Healthy Kids Healthy Horses formed the basis of recipe workshops held by clubs providing hands on experience creating healthy meals. All clubs holding workshops were presented with workshop packs that included recipe books, aprons, and lunch containers.

The recipe competition was hugely popular, seeing some of our members winning recipes in the new recipe books that have been kindly printed by Healthway and available to all clubs as a resource.

The Go for 2& 5 Fuel to Go and Play Online Training encourages the Pony Club community to train in nine quick and easy learning modules which included videos, text content, activities, and summary quizzes to clarify the knowledge learnt in the process.

An exclusive section of the Pony Club WA website was created for all Go For 2&5 Activities including activity updates, recipes, race status and forms for submitting evidence of Key Message promotion.

Congratulations to our 2023 Go for 2&5 Race Around the State winners:

- 1st King River Pony Club
- 2nd Albany Pony Club
- 3rd Orange Grove Horse and Pony Club





State Coaching Panel Report

State Coaching Panel

Natasha Naylor
Chairperson
State NCAS Co-ordinator

Nyrell Williams
Secretary
State NCAS Co-ordinator

Di Colley
Treasurer
2022 State Coaching School Co-ordinators
SCP Board Representative

Heather Wyllie
State C/K Co-ordinators*

Ferne Faulkner
State C/K Co-ordinators*

Judy Rose
CAC Representative

Margaret Barnesby-Johnson
State NCAS Co-ordinator

Nerine Butler-Blaxell
2022 State Coaching School
Co-ordinators

Sue Britza
State A/B Co-ordinator

Sally Davis
Panel Member

Di Ould
Gear Checking Advisory Panel
Chairperson

MISSION

The State Coaching Panel is responsible for the policy and direction of Coaching throughout the Association, subject to the approval of the Board. The Panel is also responsible for the assessment of Coaches, the issuing of proficiency certificates, organisation of Schools for potential Coaches, arranging for assessment and issuing of certificates to Coaches, the inspection of potential new Club's facilities, and all other matters that may be relevant to Coaching for members of the Association.

LEADERSHIP

The panel continues to use the knowledge and experience of its members to upskill and develop coaches, assessors and riders. Several proficiency assessors attained their C accreditation, and a couple progressed to C*/K level. These efforts ensured that we have a skilled group of assessors guiding rider development across Western Australia. A huge thank you goes out to the assessors who supported C & C*/K Assessments in 2023 for riders aiming towards Nationals Selection.

The SCP said farewell to Natasha Naylor, who joined the panel whilst still in her riding years of Pony Club. After 11 years she has taken the opportunity to focus on her family and own riding. We thank Natasha for her dedication to the membership during her time on the Panel.

HIGHLIGHTS

- The PCANCAS Level 1 Qualification saw significant progress and was published early 2024. The Panel was pleased to have been asked to contribute towards the content of the new manual and provide feedback on the draft. - The organisation and delivery of the PCA National Quiz was a highlight and learning experience for the panel.
- The SCP has formally welcomed 1 new panel member to the SCP with 2 more on probation as of Feb 2024 development across Western Australia. A huge thank you goes out to the assessors who supported C & C*/K Assessments in 2023 for riders aiming towards Nationals Selection.
- The SCP said farewell to Natasha Naylor, who joined the panel whilst still in her riding years of Pony Club. After 11 years she has taken the opportunity to focus on her family and own riding. We thank Natasha for her dedication to the membership during her time on the Panel.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

The National gear checking manual is becoming more familiar to our members and with the WA precis it is working well. Our WA-accredited gear checkers are gradually swapping over to the national accreditation. -Expressions of Interest (EOI) for coaches to start or upskill their PCANCAS coaching journey were high in 2023, with ongoing support provided by our State NCAS Coordinator. - Seven zones received approval for the Coach the Coaches funding, providing financial (\$300) support for coach development.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

- In 2023 more than 380 riders obtained proficiency certificates, with two riders (Caitlin Pritchard & Felicity Ericsson) earning their B Proficiency Certificate, demonstrating their dedication and hard work. A total of 425 certificates were gained by our members.

E	D	D*	C	C*	K	B	A
46	153	136	73	14	1	2	0

OUR VISION FOR 2023:

Plans are underway to reimagine the format of the State Coaching School, moving forward. Low participation numbers have been the trend since 2020 and the SCP feels we need to move into a development space that offers depth and accessibility for coach and rider development. This will commence with some very exciting plans already in place for 2024. - The SCP will lead, with funding, the WA roadshow in 2024 to get out to zones across the state.

Report by

Nyrell Williams

*Secretary
State Coaching Panel*



State Sport Committee Reports

State Active Riding Committee

MISSION

As one of Pony Club's most popular disciplines, Mounted Games provides members of all ages and ability with a fun, fast-paced activity that not only teaches riding skills in an exciting and teamwork-driven environment, it also an ability to work together with other riders and a willingness to help one another. Pony Club Members compete in teams of four or five riders and have several opportunities to compete both Nationally and Internationally.

Opportunities abound for those wishing to pursue Prince Philip Mounted Games during their Pony Club career! The core values members learn in Pony Club also prepare them for other positions in the equine industry.

Riders of any skill level and ability can compete in Mounted Games and novelties, with beginners usually competing at the Lead line Walk-Trot level before moving on into the Junior and Senior advanced ranks. The levels are divided based on the ages of the riders.

Mounted Games was originally the idea of His Royal Highness, the late Prince Philip, as a way to encourage enthusiasm, participation, and training in younger riders without the need of expensive ponies or gear. A natural draw to all levels of riding abilities, Games provide a fun sport that teaches the basic natural aids, physical coordination, self-confidence, and teamwork skills. It also encourages sportsmanship and the proper care of their mounts in all riders.

They require a high degree of athletic ability, good riding skills, hand-to-eye coordination, determination, perseverance, and a competitive spirit.

Riders develop remarkable skills in the areas of timing, sense of space, speed and direction, coordination, agility and horsemanship. They also laugh a lot, which is the only way to deal with mistakes when anyone makes one.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

WA Active Riding Committee is committed to the vision:

To provide the opportunity for every rider in WA to have a positive experience with horses through providing opportunities:

- For education.
- To learn responsibility, sportsmanship, and good citizenship.
- For enjoyment and/or competitive success with their ponies/horses
- Build confidence in themselves.
- Encourage teamwork.

HIGHLIGHTS.

The Active Riding committee ran quite a few competitions in the lead up of the State Championships in 2023 this included.

June

National Junior and Senior Selections at Serpentine
Marsden Cup -at Horseman's Pony Club grounds

July

PPMG Squad training took off with Sean coaching both the Junior and Senior riders.

August

PPMG Qualifier – AVON Pony Club 2-day event
The Sheild – Scott McNamee memorial competition this year held at Darling Range Pony Club

September

PPMG Squad training
State Active Riding championships again held at Serpentine Pony Club grounds over 2 days.

October

At the time we were mad deciding to run a WA National Competition in a totally different state. But with all the hard work of the committee especially Angela Herzer who was the backbone to all of the coordination of this epic event. When we pulled it off this would have to be one of the most memorable events we have ever undertaken. We battled the Nullarbor and a few hiccups on the way with vehicles which were fixed by the WA Dads and our own travelling mechanic/coach Sean Corbin. After a couple of days of non-stop rain 100mls the day before our comp, the 2 day planned event had to be scaled back to a jam packed 1 day event resulting in having to drop a couple of races, and change game location into the large enclosed sand arena instead of the proposed grass Polo X arena which more resembled a lake at that stage.

To lift the Allan Hession Memorial Trophy once is a great achievement, but to have the WA Senior team lift it up twice in consecutive years is quite an accomplishment for the WA riders' ponies and families that made the 3350 km trip to Benalla in October 2023. The Junior team had a great day and were proudly the Reserve Champion team close behind the NSW team by only one point.

We also ran a Gala dinner at the Benalla Sport grounds that was a great night by all accounts including a disco after all the formalities and speeches.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

Kiera Dowding 2023 WA International representative with Dan Foster elected to coach the Australian team in November 2023 at Londonderry Pony Club grounds NSW. This competition included riders from America, New Zealand, Canada, and Great Britain. With the Australian team coming a close second to Great Britain.

WA Active Riding Committee repaired both national trophies and had the Northam Men's shed build a custom trophy box to protect the trophy for many more years of Pony Club life.

OUR VISION FOR 2024

2024 is looking to not be as fast paced as what 2023 was due to Nationals being an invitational year although it is looking like Victoria may run a junior and Senior competition in Sept – October which will be exciting for the WA riders and families.

One thing we are striving to achieve in the next 12 months is to have more than the two level one Coaches for PPMG. We have a few people that have expressed a keen interest in gaining that skill, we will very closely help and encourage those people and anyone else that is interested in doing this certificate.

State Dressage Committee

MISSION

The Dressage Committee is responsible for supporting and developing young riders by encouraging and giving them opportunities to ride at their highest level. Our intention is to grow the number of young people involved in Dressage by creating development opportunities for young dressage riders, supporting Pony Clubs who host dressage events and providing an opportunity to ride at State Championships levels. We also aim to attract, train, and retain dressage officials.

LEADERSHIP

The committee has brought with its valuable knowledge and skills, which has culminated in a successful year for the sport. The committee has utilised rider feedback from previous state championships to further to encourage participation and rider development and inclusion by expanding composite teams and higher-level test.

HIGHLIGHTS

We would like to take this opportunity to formally thank all the sponsors of the VH Saddlery 2023 State Dressage Championships, without your support the event would not be possible. The Championships in its new format held over three days was a huge success with 680 tests completed over the weekend. Freestyle test are always a favourite class for all competitors and the effort and detail that goes into costume making is truly outstanding. Every parent should be commended for this.

Feedback from riders post the event indicated their support of and appreciation for the new format indicating an appreciation for the more relaxed atmosphere with the additional day and for relaxation of the rules allowing composite teams to be formed, enabling those riders riding at higher level or smaller clubs a greater opportunity to participate.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The State Dressage Squad held several development events throughout the year supported by industry leaders of Dressage in WA who coached, judged, and provided extensive theoretical and practical knowledge targeting athlete development of both the horse and rider. These days were extremely well supported by riders and parents, with feedback overwhelmingly recommending access to additional training opportunities in future squad programs.

Training was provided to volunteers of the state championship event for the scoring platform **Nominate** to ensure judges were supported by writers familiar with the electronic scoring system. This was a new scoring system implemented in 2023 and will be utilised again for the 2024 event, therefore further training opportunities are planned in the first half of 2024.

Dressage Judge training was undertaken in early 2024 in collaboration with Wendy Barker, EA Judge Educator, for volunteers and G level judges to grow the capacity of suitably qualified judges for grass roots Pony Clubs dressage events. The course consisted of three Zoom sessions covering theory, an open book rule test covering EA and PC specific rules, and finally practical evaluation which comprised shadow judging at Wallangarra RPC, a range of riders and horses. The riders included a 7 year old girl doing her first ever Prelim test and others who were seasoned competitors. These tests were videoed, allowing rural and remote candidates to complete this aspect remotely. This program resulted in 19 people who are now accredited to judge Prep and Prelim tests at PC events.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

The committee would like to offer congratulations to all dressage riders who rode at the VH Saddlery State Dressage Championships in 2023 noting many amazing tests and the high standard of results, which were carried over by those dressage riders selected to represent WA at the Pony Club National event. It is clear that the standard of dressage within Pony Club WA is consistently high resulting in the fabulous National team and individual results.

In 2023 the Dressage Committee received recognition for the development of the sport via the Pony Club Annual Awards program for which we are truly humble.

The State Dressage Committee Medal award program initiated in 2023 saw a number of riders achieve gold, silver and bronze medals in recognition of their high level of achievement within the dressage discipline.

OUR VISION FOR 2024

The Dressage Committee is committed to the continued development of our riders, officials and success of dressage events. In 2024 the committee aims to provide:

- Electronic writing education program for volunteers
- Judge training for volunteers
- Support of Pony Club High Performance development program
- Continuation of the Dressage Performance Medal program
- Provision of access to alternative format – virtual dressage events to provide access to rural and remote riders.

State Eventing Committee

MISSION

The State Eventing committee is responsible for creating and implementing Eventing rules, supporting Clubs who hold One Day Events and assisting to create positive events to foster and encourage riders in Eventing. We work with the Host Club to run the State Eventing Championships. We also implement programs aimed at attracting, retaining, and training officials.

LEADERSHIP

The 2023 committee members were Tracey Hobbs, Monique Perkins, Jenni Brown, Shaun Lowry, Peter Cook, Roxie Sinclair, Renae Srdarev and Julie Cameron. The Technical Delegates worked tirelessly for the year, managing events all over the State. Thanks to Sharon Shanks, Deb Ware, Heather Wyllie, Jenny Brett, Peter Cook, Noel Mustchin and Peter Madagan.

HIGHLIGHTS

Our highlight for the year was hosting the Eventing phase for Pony Club Nationals in Western Australia. Unfortunately, not many riders from Interstate made the trek across the Nullabor. Huge congratulations to the riders that came from Queensland to complete. The dressage and show jumping phases were held at the State Equestrian Centre and the cross country phase was held at the Wallangarra Pony Club, including the new 105cm course.

Our State eventing championships, which were to be held at Kalgoorlie, unfortunately had to be cancelled due to low rider numbers. Thank you to the Kalgoorlie committee for the hard work they put in prior to the event. A hybrid event was held at the Capel ODE in November, with only riders who had entered the Kalgoorlie event taking part.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Our 203 Squad riders had the opportunity to attend 3 training days and a camp. Under the guidance of Chief Coach Shaun Dillon, the riders had instruction for Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross Country, Vet discussions, rider mental health and wellbeing talks. Thank you to all of the instructors who presented over the year.

We held Zoom meetings for the Event Organisers to discuss new rules, organising strategies and other issues for Clubs.

VISION FOR 2024

We will strengthen 2024 with an Event Organisers zoom meeting, and a Technical Delegate zoom meeting. The plan is to hold more meetings this year to keep everyone up to date with information. Our aim for the year is to increase our Technical Delegate and Cross Country course designer numbers. We will support and assist clubs to run efficient events for rider participation and development.

State Hickstead and Hunter Trials Committee

MISSION

To continue to develop Hickstead and Hunter Trial Inspectors through working in conjunction with other Sports Committees. To improve on the delivery and participation of a great State Hickstead through more clubs running these types of events and hopefully encourage on-site officials within these clubs.

LEADERSHIP

The committee is made up of members who were the original members of the Taskforce to set up the rules for the Hickstead and Hunter Trials, so they bring a wealth of knowledge of the evolution of the discipline to the table.

Dianne Ould has once again led as Chair to a successful 2023 with the support of Peter Cook, Jacqui Van Rensburg, Juanita Brewer, and Wanda Longley.

HIGHLIGHTS

The participation of our Course Designers and Inspectors in the joint workshop with EWA Eventing and Pony Club WA workshop at Murray Regional Equestrian Centre on the 6th & 7th May at the Murray CCN 2023. The presenters were Syliva Williams Roberts and Pollyanne Huntington.

We were also able to assist 5 clubs with our 2022 Sports Equipment Grant to assist clubs to upgrade their equipment and provide a safe environment for horses and riders.

This year also saw the first Hickstead held at Eastern Hills Pony Club, so we hope Tash Forward, and her team will once again add this event to their club calendar for 2024.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Due to the PCA National Championships held in Perth in 2023, the HHT committee felt that the number of riders attending the State Hickstead Championships in early November, would not have been the minimum number of riders. So, with a heavy heart, the event was cancelled.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The committee would like to congratulate the winners of the Hickstead Leaderboard:

Makenzie Hrubos, Gidgegannup; Zara Coussens-Leeson, Woodridge; and Grace Johnson, Peel Metropolitan.

And, to Rick Ould, who is a great support to the Committee in running and officiating at the State Hickstead, being awarded the Pony Club Official of the Year.

OUR VISION FOR 2024

To increase the number of clubs running Hickstead and Hunter Trials, which will increase the number of riders registering for the Hickstead Leaderboard.

To continue to develop Hickstead and Hunter Trial Inspectors through working in conjunction with other Sports Committees.

To increase the interest of parents and senior riders to nominate for the committee as an ongoing succession plan.

State Showjumping Committee

MISSION

The Showjumping Committee's mission is to educate, encourage and support riders in the discipline of Showjumping and selection for the State Showjumping Squad and Teams. We aim to continue providing training and resources to officials, Clubs, volunteers, associated members and engage those who have an interest to become course designers and judges.

LEADERSHIP

The 2023 Committee comprised of eight members each bringing a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion for the sport. Each year the Committee work tirelessly to bring together the annual state showjumping championships, Pony Club WA Invitational Team jumping at the Perth Royal Show and more recently hosting the Pony Club International Alliance Showjumping for the past two years. The Committee also worked on the National Taskforce Committee to host the 2023 PCA National Championships which were held in Perth.

We are truly fortunate to have Fred Freeman and Kevin Gianatti as advisors again this year, both integral to the success of the state championships. Program and sponsorship were once again successfully driven and implemented by Nadine Bennett with Wanda Longley and Rachael Mason coordinating and running the state Squad. Committee members Felicity Council, Stephen Johnson and Donnett Edwards were invaluable in all Committee endeavours.

HIGHLIGHTS

This year the Committee worked together with Simon Barry from Jumping WA to present workshops for reaccreditation of officials as well as those interested in becoming showjumping officials.

The first workshop was held at Moonyoonooka Horse and Pony Club with presenters Penny Dodd (Judging) and Fred Freeman (Course Design). In February Pony Club WA was invited to join Jumping WA at a workshop for Judges only. Later in the year Jumping WA and Pony Club WA held a joint workshop for Course Designers in Albany which was well received.

The workshops would not be able to run without the support of hosting clubs and our trainers Penny Dodd, Fred Freeman, and Kevin Tully.

WA again hosted the Pony Club International Virtual Showjumping competition. The event was held at Swan River grounds at Brookleigh with Fred Freeman as Course Designer and Rosemary Inglis judging. This year we had the inclusion of the Master Class (riders over 24 years). Once again WA was the only state to put forward teams to represent Australia against other competing countries including the United Kingdom, South Africa, and Hong Kong.

The Australian Team placed: Subjuniors: 2nd, Juniors: 3rd, Seniors: 5th and Masters: 2nd.

The 2023 State Championships were held at the SEC in May and proved once again to be the highlight for many riders which was conveyed through the rider's survey. The Program was designed to accommodate and challenge riders over the three days. We started the competition with the popular Welcome Stakes held indoors Friday afternoon. The Championships were officially opened with an acknowledgment to Country and awareness of the Dolly's Dream Foundation which was the beneficiary of funds raised over the duration of the competition.

Saturday night Bingo and mini quiz was once again held to a sell-out audience with the raffle, silent auction and gold coin donation all going towards Dolly's Dream.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Three clinics were held over the year for our State Squad members at Baldivis, Peel and Bunbury Pony Clubs. The clinics were also an avenue for new riders interested in becoming 2024 members.

As the Nationals were being held in October, it was felt we needed to provide our riders with a final clinic at Bunbury Pony Club which was a two-day clinic. Thank you to Rachael Mason for putting the clinic together with instruction from coaches Shaun Dillion, Tessa Lilli and presenter Darren Jenkins who is an accredited exercise Physiologist and Exercise Scientist.

REWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Margaret Campbell Award: Stephen Jones, Vice Chair and Equipment/Maintenance

OUR VISION FOR 2024

We aim to continue to educate, encourage and develop riders, volunteers, coaches, officials and interested people in showjumping through workshops, clinic and at a Club level.

We pledge to continue to maintain and up-grade showjumping equipment and resources along with improving, growing and running the state Squad, state championships.

We hope to continue our involvement and work with Jumping WA to provide valuable and educational workshops to the equestrian community alongside our support of Pony Club WA.

Kristy Rae
Chairperson

State Tetrathlon Committee

MISSION

To grow the sport of Tetrathlon in Western Australia and Australia and encourage members to prepare to compete in the Australian 2023 National Championships in WA.

LEADERSHIP

The sport of Tetrathlon is greatly supported by the Pony Club WA State Tetrathlon Committee. Here are our representatives that dedicate and deliver ongoing support to our incredible sport:

Our 2023 State Tetrathlon Committee: Dawn Banner, Bill Wiese, Sarah Wiese, Donna Black, Julie Frantom, Sally Cox, Bec Halbert, Campbell Black, Nikita Mawhirt, Chairperson: Lisa Maxwell

The committee would like to acknowledge the much appreciated support provided by the State Office, in particular that of Tanya Appleby and Wanda Longley and our previous committee members that retired during 2023, Michelle Bassola, Charis Neuman, Vikki and Georgia Goss.

HIGHLIGHTS

The 2023 State Championships were held at the SEC. Our entries were up from the previous years, put down to a more central location, a change to qualifications and introducing a Showjumping ridden phase. The competitors showed they came ready to compete and came away with some great scores. Wallangarra Pony Club was well represented and came away as Club Champions with the highest club overall points.

The 2023 Petstock Pony Club Nationals were held in Perth and the selected WA Tetrathlon Teams exceeded the expectations of the other states.

The WA Senior Girls Team placed First, Senior Males Team 2nd, Jnr Males Team 2nd, and Jnr Female Team 2nd.

They also had impressive personal scores and placings demonstrating their commitment to training and development.

- Senior Girls: one 2nd and three 3rd
- Senior Males: two 2nds
- Jnr Females: one 1st and a 3rd
- Jnr Males: two 1st and two 3rds,
- Sub Jnr Females, two 1st, one 2nd and three 3rds
- Sub Jnr Males: one 1st and third

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The State squad held several training days, mounted and unmounted and all were very well attended under the instruction of Nikita and other coaches. These training days were held at Walliston Pony Club and Beatty Park.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

The committee would like to continue to acknowledge and thank our Technical Delegate , Course designer, scorers, and volunteers for their support throughout the year. We are fortunate to have the support of these people that bring their positive attitudes and expertise to provide much needed support to our committee and at pony clubs which helps with tetrathlon participation at all levels.

OUR VISION FOR 2024

To encourage participation and recognition of Tetrathlon.

We aim to do this by:

1. Hosting a successful State Championship
2. Supporting and encouraging clubs to host Tetrathlon events throughout the year
3. Providing opportunities to develop individual performance in all phases of the Tetrathlon, through squad and high performance camps and training days.
4. Support the training and development of officials to increase knowledge of coaching and officiating the Tetrathlon disciplines.

Go for 2&5 Festival Taskforce



'The Festival of Fun'

Murray Horse and Pony Club co-hosted the Pony Club WA Festival on Sunday, 5 June 2022. 106 Riders from 17 clubs entered the State Event that is a fantastic grass roots competition. We had 94 riders compete on the day with the majority of the scratchings being related to Covid—19.

Several families took advantage of the opportunity to camp overnight and utilised the wonderful, safe yards. Murray Horse and Pony Club is nestled in a relaxed, country club atmosphere.

It is an action-packed day of fun as riders try their hand at the many the many activities on offer. Riders were able to participate in Showjumping, Dressage, Showman, Active Riding, and the amazingly creative Fancy Dress.

The canteen was extremely popular and served a wide array of healthy treats. Presentations of all classes took place after all the equipment had been packed away. It was fantastic to see the riders cheering for one another as the results were announced.

We are very grateful for our wonderful officials, parents, and helpers. A huge thank you to Murray Horse and Pony Club for sharing their lovely grounds and equipment. We were very fortunate to have scorers Julie Cameron and Vikki Goss working their magic through all the paperwork to deliver the results in such a timely manner. The Pony Club Festival is such an inspiring event for our younger members. Lifelong memories and friendships are made at this very special event.



Zone Reports

Avon Zone

Let me start by saying how wonderful it has been to see so many Avon Zone riders out and about successfully representing both their clubs and our zone in all disciplines. And what a successful year it has been for our small zone.

Once again we had an abundance of riders from lead-line to C*/K attend our Zone Development Program. We were very lucky to have incredible coaches and it was great to see every child develop in some way over the course of the weekend.

Special thanks to Jess who took on the brunt of the work again to organise the program and, also thanks to everyone else who helped in some way.

As far as competitions go, our zone has outdone itself. We showed representation at every PCWA State event, performing extremely well. However, the biggest achievement would be the number of riders selected to represent WA at the PCA National Championships. Avon Zone had 10 riders compete over 6 disciplines with incredible results. Particularly in Mounted games (WA brought home the win),

Tetrathlon (WA senior team won & Ellie Steele was Australian individual junior champion) and Joshua Duncan and Sophie Tennant finished nationally 3rd & 4th respectively in Sub-junior dressage.

Over the course of 2023, we had 15 members successfully complete a certificate

from E to C level. We also have many more working towards certificates they hope

to complete in 2024. We've also had Zone volunteers working towards their coaching certificates.

Overall, Avon Zone has had a very enjoyable and successful 2023, and we are very excited to see what our members can achieve in 2024.

Report by

Jennifer Kobulniczky Duncan
Pony Club WA Avon Zone

Central Zone

MISSION:

The Central Zone aims to ensure the two clubs in the zone support each other's events.

Leadership:

Dryandra Pony Club is currently filling the roles of Central Zone President, Secretary, Treasurer and Chief Coach. This year has seen the Central Zone Constitution updated and a backlog of Annual Information Statements lodged. Central Zone has continued to contribute to the wider Pony Club WA community with Linda Page on the Dressage committee, Kristy Rae on the Showjumping Committee, Bill and Sarah Wiese on the Tetrathlon committee and Sarah Wiese on the Nationals Taskforce and National Tetrathlon Committee.

HIGHLIGHTS:

Dryandra ran a very successful Dressage and Show Jump series with three events in March, April and May and hosted an ODE in September with 120 competitors. The Narrogin Show finished the Dryandra events for the year. Wagin has hosted 2 major events the Funorama in March and the Gymkhanarama in September. The Gymkhanarama was a qualifying event for Eventing in the Park and was livestreamed lifting the profile of the event.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT:

Dryandra Pony Club had 31 riding members and 17 adult supporters and coaches, with a full rally and camp program with 7 rallies and 3 camps. Wagin has had 24 members this year, with adult riders being a significant proportion of the membership, and covered a variety of topics in their monthly rallies.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION:

Central Zone was represented at 4 State Championships this year. At Tetrathlon Champs Central Zone had riders in the winning 95cm Team and the winning 45cm Team. At Show Jump Champs Dryandra won the Brigid Woss Team event and Central Zone the Zone 1m Team event. At State Dressage Champs Central Zone had riders in the winning Zone team and the winning M'Liss Henry Pre-Caprilli Trophy and Dryandra came 2nd in the Plunkett Trophy. At the State Active Riding Champs 4 riders had a successful vaulting championships. Three riders from Central Zone also represented WA at the Pony Club Australia National Championships.

OUR VISION FOR 2024:

The goal of our rally program is to assist riders in working towards their certificates at all levels from E to B. We also aim to support and encourage more riders to attend State Championships and form Club and Zone teams.

Great Southern Zone

MISSION

The GSZ aims to continue to support the 6 regional clubs in our zone to provide a healthy and productive environment for all it's pony club members. The zone looks to provide support where small club numbers would normally prohibit the club from being able to provide that service/event. The zone looks to provide local events as the 5hrs travel one way to Perth and associated cost and time required to undertake this journey prohibits many of our riders and supporters from attending events in the metro area. The zone also looks to facilitate inter club events in the spirit of pony club. The zone looks to encourage all clubs to work together for the greater good of all pony clubs and their members.

LEADERSHIP

We have kept the same primary committee from 2023 to 2024 with President Michelle Ericsson (KRPC) Super Secretary Heather Knight (APC) Treasurer Michelle Ericsson (KRPC) Coaching Coordinator and primary driving force in the zone, Ferne Faulkner (WPPC) Reps 2 from each club APC, KRPC, DPC, WPPC, Koj PC and Ka PC.

HIGHLIGHTS

To conclude 2023 the GSZ run a very successful interclub quiz. We have teams from 4 of the 6 clubs and all enjoyed a very fun quiz compiled by Ferne Faulkner. The GS zone sent riders to PCWA State Tet, State SJ, State Dressage. We had 2 riders from the zone successfully achieve their B certificate. The first in many years.

PARTICIPATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The GSZ facilitated a virtual gear checking seminar for local participants. We hosted a C assessment today with 5 riders passing this assessment. The B assessment exam was completed in Albany at the King River Pony Club thanks to the support of PCWA and Philippa Collier. In the region there was a GSZ SJ run off and Dressage run off days to determine riders to be selected for the zone to compete at the State champs. Planning has commenced for coach the coaches seminar to continue to build on the capacity of our local coaches to be held in the GSZ. We will also look to have those who completed the onling gear checking seminars to complete their practical assessment and obtain their accreditation.

REWARD AND RECOGNITION

The GSZ hosted a very successful volunteer recognition lunch at the KRPC in Dec 2023. This was attended by 5 of the clubs in the zone. Each club nominates an U17 and 17yr+ club ambassador (the perfect pony club member) and club volunteer. These are recognised at the lunch with a few words highlighting their contribution. They receive a certificate and small gift as small token of appreciation of the amazing work they do.

CHALLENGES IN 2024

Each club in the zone has the normal ebbs and flows in membership numbers. Most clubs rely on the support of a few hard working volunteers who are the same volunteers on the GSZ committee. Filling zone committee positions each year is a very difficult task. The need for more and more "accredited" volunteers to run a club has made considerably more work and added more challenges for these small rural clubs to operate and run rallies and events. The GSZ in 2023 could no longer access the sizable Sport and Rec grant which allowed the zone to be quite active in it's support of it's clubs. The grant criteria had changed considerably and for the first time in many many years the GSZ did not receive any financial support from any agency in 2023. This year Sport and Rec have advised that it is likely the previous GSZ regional funding will be centralised to PCWA. The zone will await communication from PCWA as to what support we can then access via this funding.

VISION FOR 2024

The zone has highlighted the need for a locally run coach the coaches clinic and preparation has begun for this to be held in the zone in July 2024. Following on from successful C exams last year the zone are also planning for a locally run C* clinic to facilitate riders in our zone to go on and complete their C*. The zone is planning to continue to run the end of year inter club quiz and volunteer recognition awards. The zone would welcome direct communication from PCWA and consideration for PCWA run rural (within a 2hr drive of where we live) clinics, coaching opportunities and officials development to be provided in our zone.

Report by

Michelle Ericsson
Great Southern Zone

South Eastern Zone

The South Eastern Zone is made up of three different Pony Clubs – Esperance Pony Club, Kalgoorlie District Pony Club and Munglinup Pony Club. Unfortunately, the Munglinup Pony Club is currently in recession which has resulted in several members now travelling a distance of 200km to attend a Rally at Esperance Pony Club. (400kms return trip).

With the tyranny of distance aside the Kalgoorlie District Pony Club and Esperance Pony Club still hosted several One Day Events, Rallies, Camps, Dressage and Show Jumping Series and a Coach the Coaches Clinic.

Covering a sizeable distance between the three clubs in our zone, the membership spread is as follows:

<u>Kalgoorlie District Pony Club</u>	<u>Esperance Pony Club</u>
3 Junior Members 2 Senior Members 5 Adult Riding Members	34 Junior Members 3 Senior Members 9 Adult Riding Members

To date one rider from Kalgoorlie and 8 riders from Esperance have completed their Certificate Assessments graduating up to C Certificate levels. There are another 5 in Esperance set to complete their assessments in 2023.

Three coaches from Esperance Pony Club (Mareeka Coward, Melissa Spurling & Dorothy Henderson) started the year off by attending the State Coaching Clinic in Perth. This was one and a half days of interesting talks and demonstrations and a great opportunity to speak directly to the PCAWA Office Staff.

Through the year Kalgoorlie and Esperance Pony Clubs put on their eventing colours with Kalgoorlie Pony Club offering the Golden Nugget for its 26th year and the Esperance Pony Club holding two successful One Day Events. Financially these events are not very rewarding for the clubs once costs associated with flights and accommodation for Technical Delegates, Judges and Ambulance fees are taking into consideration. However, both clubs happily run them as they are a highlight for many riders within the clubs.

It was very disappointing to have the State Eventing Championships in Kalgoorlie cancelled due to lack of rider support. The Kalgoorlie District Pony Club had put a lot of time, money and volunteer hours into getting their grounds into great condition for this event and the cancellation just highlighted the Metro v's Country divide. Country riders undertake many trips to and from events, including State Competitions and PCWA Training Events held in metro areas, covering the costs of fuel and organising their own accommodation and travel arrangements. However, it seems, even with incentives such as discounted horse trucking costs and stop over camping options promoted, a number of riders / parents / supporters did not deem this State Event feasible. This was equally disappointing for those riders who made the effort of qualifying for this state event who now have missed out on an opportunity to represent their club in a State Championship in 2023. Another factor that locally divided our riders was State Eventing Championship being held on the same weekend as the Esperance & Districts Agricultural Show. This clash of events in itself was concerning to both Esperance Pony Club and Kalgoorlie District Pony Club riders from the outset as riders would have preferred to have supported both events (being in their 'local area') then choose just one.

Throughout the year the Esperance Pony Club held a very successful Show Jumping and Dressage Series due to considerable effort from Melissa Spurling and Desiree Sanderson. Together they offered four separate events with fantastic sponsorship and support through the series. Judges for the Dressage on all occasions were official thus giving our riders a chance to be judged by judges who

assess riders from around the state on a regular basis. This is very important as it helps keep our riders in touch with standards expected at all levels around the state. Unfortunately, unofficial judges cannot offer that same level of competition experience.

The Zone Pony Club Camp was held in Esperance and was well supported by riders from both clubs with coaching offered from Stephen Johnson, David Carey, Deb Spencer and Dan Foster. Dan was the highlight of the camp, coaching riders in all aspects of Active Riding. This success resulted in Dan returning to Esperance for the Agricultural Show to run a Games Competition. Again, the tyranny of distance nearly ran afoul of the camp with Regional Express Airlines cancelling the coaches' flights at the last minute. Luckily Mr Games became Mr Chauffeur and drove our coaches from Perth to Esperance which was a seven-hour journey some had never experienced before.

The October Training Camp held at Esperance Pony Club was also opened to Kalgoorlie District Pony Club Riders to attend as Katie Vuletic from "Horse Archery with Katie" ran a Coach the Coaches Clinic. This was generously supported by the State Coaching Panel and allowed our riders to have ridden lessons with Katie in all things Horse Archery with these followed by theory sessions at the end of the day with interested coaches. Throughout the ridden sessions interested coaches were rotated through lessons to gain an insight on how to coach archery to our riders in the future. Again, a big thank you to the State Coaching Committee for their supporting this. At this camp we were fortunate to have Natalie Hibbert, Katrin Kuentler and Philippa Collier join Katie in coaching our riders.

Esperance Pony Club had several riders qualify and enter State Championships in Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing however, horse and rider illness saw a few riders miss out which was disappointing for them. Congratulations to Isabelle Cox who had a very busy year representing Esperance Pony Club at a Local, State and National level in 2023 in Tetrathlon, Show Jumping and Eventing and was selected to represent Australia in the upcoming PCAWA China tour. Her dedication to the sport, and the support from her family, is inspiring to many riders.

Rallies have been well attended through the year with Kalgoorlie offering eight rallies and Esperance Pony Club hosting ten rallies. On two occasions riders from Esperance have visited the Kalgoorlie District Pony Club to attend their Rallies to make the most of the visiting coaches that Kalgoorlie District Pony Club host. These coaches include David Carey and Natalie Hibbert whom are both respected coaches amongst their peers.

Throughout the year members have committed to increasing their skills as outlined below:

Esperance Pony Club

- Mareeka Coward & Andrea Carmody – Accredited Dressage Judges
- Natahna Stone – Accredited Show Jump Judge and Course Designer
- John Sanderson – Undertaking the Show Jump Course Designer Accreditation
- Libby Doherty – Undertaking the Cross-Country Course Building Accreditation
- Amanda Govans – Undertaking the Foundation Coaching Accreditation
- Melissa Spurling & Dorothy Henderson – Undertaking the Preliminary Level Coaching Accreditation

Kalgoorlie District Pony Club

- Tash Rose – Undertaking the Level 1 Coaching Accreditation

Both clubs are extremely lucky to have such dedicated volunteers to help keep the clubs running. It is with great positivity both clubs move into 2024 aiming for a bigger, better and more successful year.

Thank you to the PCAWA State Office and Committees for their support and hard work in 2024.

Swan Zone

The Swan Zone is made up of 5 clubs reaching from Moora to Woodridge. Swan Valley Horse and Pony Club is situated at the State Equestrian Centre and is the biggest of our 5 clubs.

2023 was a busy year for all the clubs with participation of their members in the Pony Club State Events, Petstock Pony Club Australia National Championships at Perth as well as the Prince Phillip Mounted Games in Benalla, Victoria, the Pony Club International Virtual Showjumping and Dressage events.

The Zone was well represented, winning first in the Zone 80cm & 90cm Zone classes and coming in 2nd in the 110cm class.

At the Pony Club Annual Awards held in December, many of the riders and coaches of these various clubs were nominated by their clubs for their contribution to prompting and demonstrating the "Pony Club spirit".

A few highlights from the clubs:

This year at **Horsemens** we welcomed back the annual Club Camp; an event we intend to run every year. The weekend of camp was a great opportunity for our club to spend some quality time together in a social setting, as well as some invaluable sessions with some brilliant coaches. Our camp ran from Saturday to Monday, with Dr **Portland Jones** joining our Saturday program presenting a fascinating lecture on Equitation Science and a ground work session, **Tiarna Newbold** sharing her expertise during our Sunday show jumping, and **Karen White** leading our riders through their first Working Equitation course. Our down time was filled with some arts and crafts making colourful browbands; which most of our riders proudly wore for the rest of the weekend, mounted and unmounted games, and some Jaz lead sessions on camping out with your horse. Much fun was had by all over the weekend, and I know it wasn't just the rider's that learned something and had some great takeaways from the weekend.

Wanneroo Horse and Pony Club has always maintained a good working relationship with Wanneroo Stockfeeders and help them with their annual Christmas BBQ and Tack Sale. They ran 3 series Combined Training days and their Annual Encouragement Hack Day.

Manning the gates at the Wanneroo Speedway has been their major fundraising event to contribute to funds to maintain their grounds and build much needed holding yards for their members and event competitors.

Swan Valley members had a busy year competing outside of their club as well as representing the Zone at State Showjumping and Dressage as well as being well represented in the PCI and Petstock PCA National Championships. Swan Valley members of Claire George, Jorja Brown, Kiera Dowding and Isla George travelled over East for the Australian Mounted Pairs competition.

Woodridge Equestrian Centre had another very successful year with a few of our riders reaching incredible milestones and status within their chosen discipline. It is not always about riding either, in 2023 we had showjumping course building, a visit to the racecourse and a look behind the scenes. We also provided some arts n crafts and roping for people to have fun.

As a club we like to utilise our young riders and encourage them to give back to their community. We held our very first Grass Roots Hickstead event, where we catered for the young and green horses.

We have amazing opportunities in 2024 for adult riders, OTT and Pony Club riders and some non-riding activities which will allow other people in the community to join us.

Report by

Wanda Longley

Chairperson

Pony Club WA Swan Zone

West Coastal Zone

2023 has been another busy yet highly successful year for West Coastal Zone with quite a number of achievements. We had riders from all our clubs within our zone competing and representing their clubs and our zone in all disciplines with outstanding results in State, National and International level. We have seen a huge growth in riders joining educational development opportunities our Zone has been providing to not only riders but coaches/ volunteers. Engaging and empowering our members has been an important focus in 2023 and enhancing learning opportunities with providing flexible zoom theory sessions, development days and support from mentors. We aim to be inclusive and supportive and continue to provide education and support to our Zone.

The start of 2023 saw our Zone host a Lunge Clinic at Murray Horse and Pony Club with the objective to educate and support our Coaches within our Zone learning valuable skills they would then be able to return to their Clubs. In March we hosted a Preliminary Coach Clinic at Serpentine Horse and Pony Club with the support from State Coaching Panel with presenters Heather Wyllie and Fern Faulkner. Development and accreditation of our Coaches within our Zone is important in improving the quality of coaching and we recognise huge developmental growth with our members from providing more Coach development opportunities.

August saw Pony Club WA host the Pony Club International Alliance Showjumping Team Australia at Brookleigh. Congratulations to Matilda March, Allira Bond and Georgia Lowry all from Serpentine HPC who were selected to represent Australia. All 3 Riders represented Australia with pride and outstanding sportsmanship and placing highly in their categories. Congratulations to you all.

With the excitement and buzz of the Pony Club Australia Nationals being held in Perth we had a huge amount of riders represent WA from our Zone with wonderful success. It was exciting for Perth to host the Nationals with outstanding results and representation across the state. It was a mammoth task for our state and we would like to congratulate not only the competitors but the volunteers who tirelessly worked hard to ensure the event was successful and memorable with great friendship created, outstanding sportsmanship shown and bringing the pony club community together. Thank you Pony Club WA for hosting this prestigious event.

Some of our families within our zone showed dedication and passion to supporting their riders and making the huge trek across Australia to compete in the PPMG Nationals held in Benalla Victoria. Congratulations to Kailani Muir, Aaron Suvaljko, Adelaide Gibbs and their families for their successful trip across the Nullarbor and representing our State at this event.

Congratulations to Ruby Gilberd from Serpentine HPC with her pony Rosie who competed in the Thoroughbred Industry National Pony Racing Series held at Ascot in December. Ruby and Rosie won the Small Pony Qualifier gaining entry into the final Industry Careers National Pony Racing Series. This is a fantastic opportunity to explore the vast range of career opportunities available in the Thoroughbred Industry. Well Done Ruby and we wish you luck in the finals in 2024.

The success of our Zone and Clubs would not be possible with out the dedication of our volunteers who have been instrumental in the growth and development of our members. Our volunteers are the backbone of our clubs and we sincerely thank them for their dedication and support, teamwork and sense of pride contributing to our zone success. Congratulations to Rick and Dianne Ould who were presented at the Pony Club WA Award Night 2023, the honour of a Gold Service Award recognising and celebrating their service to Pony Club for over 15 years. This prestigious award was an opportunity to identify the remarkable impact they have both made to Pony Club WA and their outstanding contribution they have given over many years. *Congratulations Rick and Dianne.*

Pony Club Australia Awards I was honoured to be named Volunteer of the Year and I would like to sincerely thank Pony Club Australia for this prestigious award. Congratulations to Amelia Gordon from Serpentine HPC who was awarded Top 3 Finalist Best Achievement of a Rider 12 years and under.

West Coastal Zone have been committed to supporting our clubs within our zone with not only development opportunities but our Zone Committee working hard to foster and encourage, support and provide opportunities to empower our members and their families whilst creating a pony club community connecting our clubs under one zone. We celebrate the outstanding achievements of our members not only those who have gone on to represent our Zone, State and Australia but celebrate the milestones and the achievements of our members who have achieved within their clubs. 2023 has certainly been a year of incredible growth, opportunities and achievement.

Report by

Robyn Gordon

Pony Club WA West Coastal Zone



Our Supporters

Thank you too all our accredited photographers who captured our 2022 season of sport.

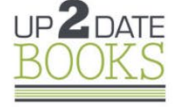


Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries



Equine Photography

- Rebecca De Vries – Fine Art Photography





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