



June 2017 News from Pony Club Australia

National Governance Changes

The Annual General Meeting of Pony Club Australia was held in Adelaide on 27th May and was attended by representatives of all states.

PCA thanks Jacinta Withoud and Sharon le Mesurier, whose terms have ended, for their contributions to the board. Shannon Durrant was re-appointed for her second term and Sonia Murphy was elected for her first term¹. Office holders for PCA are Carol Paterson (Chair), Melanie Woodward (Treasurer) and Shannon Durrant (Secretary).

PCA has commenced rotation of appointments to the National Coaching Committee. At the annual dinner on 27th May, PCA Chair Carol Paterson (right) paid tribute to the retiring members (L-R), Jenny Frankum, NSW; Ann Olsen, SA; and Anne Cotton, Tas, who have each made an enormous contribution.



The new Chair of the National Coaching Committee is Mike Carlson, Queensland.

¹ The PCA board has 5 elected (members of a Pony Club) and 3 appointed directors (special skills).



Australian Government
Australian Sports Commission



June 2017

Michelle's Travels

PCA Director, Michelle Harper, is currently on a road trip across Australia. Michelle is seeking to meet up with as many Pony Club members as she can whilst 'on tour'. Heading off from the Yarra Valley, Michelle's first visit was to Dennington Pony Club in Western Victoria. Dennington is a small club that holds its rallies at the Warrnambool Showgrounds. It shares the facilities with many other sporting clubs, including the greyhound races. Dennington has a small but growing membership base and a great canteen. The June rally had seven new members and was a great day for everyone.



The Australian Government through the Australian Sports Commission recognises PCA to develop Pony Club in Australia. The financial support of the Australian Sports Commission is gratefully acknowledged.



A life with horses starts here

Paul Buchanan was a member of Beaudesert then Gin Gin Pony Club in Queensland. His favourite Pony Club horse was Rosie a Clydesdale cross, who “wasn't a world beater but she taught me so much.”

Paul made the most of the opportunities of Pony Club and particularly sought out clinics where he could broaden his knowledge.

Paul is now employed at Aquis Farms at Canungra, Queensland where has diverse responsibilities including handling stallions, broodmare and foal care, weaning and preparing Thoroughbred yearlings for sale.



The lessons learned in Pony Club help with Paul's current role – “You can't just tell them what you want, you have to teach them. There must always be a point of respect between both sides of the partnership - the horse and the rider or handler.”

Paul doesn't get a lot of time to ride these days but does have a 12 year old Warmblood gelding training in dressage with Craig Lucas from CLM Equine. Paul is pleased to still be in touch with people from his Pony Club days, including instructor Megan Wray.

PCA is interested to hear other alumni stories from people who have gone on to great careers in a range of industries.

You might also want to nominate them for the 2017 Gillian Rolton Award.

2017 PCA Awards – NOMINATIONS CLOSE 30th June

The 2017 awards will be presented at the National Championships in Toowoomba in September. Nominations close at the end of June 2017. Details attached.



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Pony Club Australia Annual Report

The 2016 annual report is now available and can be downloaded from the [PCA website](#).



The **Aquis International Showjumping Challenge** at the 2017 National Championships will see teams from Australia, France and China competing on borrowed horses over 3 days of the championships. If you are already attending the Nationals, and are aged 16-20 years please contact your state office.

Pony Club Australia is very grateful to Aquis Farm for their generous sponsorship of the event.

2017/2018 Remi Stud Scholarship

Applications are now open for the 2017/2018 Remi Stud Scholarship. Huntingfield Pony Club, Tasmania member, George Grover, was the winner of the last Remi scholarship. The scholarship enables a promising rider in dressage or eventing to have the horse of their dreams, a purpose-bred weanling by Hanoverian stallion *Lauries As* and a huge package of prizes.

The application form is overleaf. Further details on the [Remi Stud Facebook](#) page.



**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE REMI STUD
YOUNG RIDER SCHOLARSHIP 2017**

The Remi Stud Young Rider Scholarship is an amazing opportunity for a young rider who has the dedication and talent, but not the financial means, to enter into the equestrian industry. The scholarship includes the ownership of a purpose bred weanling foal by Lauries As - one of the best performed Hanoverian stallions in Australia, plus a sponsorship package which includes feed from Prydes EasiFeed; a saddle, saddlecloth and bridle from Edwards Saddleworld; 10 weeks training by Team Van Den Berge when the horse turns three years old; life registration with Equestrian Queensland; registration and merchandise from the Hanoverian Horse Society of Australia; legal support from Horseforce; show product from Dr Show; riding apparel from Belrock Equestrian; veterinary care from Westvets; registration and merchandise from the HHSA; transport from Manuel Equine Transport; and support from Equestrian Australia and the Brisbane CDI. To be considered for the receipt of this amazing scholarship valued at over \$30,000, riders should complete the application form below and submit it to Cheryl O'Brien at remistud@bigpond.com

Applicants are eligible from the beginning of the year in which they turn 12 to the end of the year in which they turn 18.

Applicants should provide the following information to accompany their application form:

- A letter describing why you believe you would be a worthy recipient of the scholarship - this should include current training level; short, medium and long term goals in the equestrian industry; and information regarding how this scholarship would allow and support your future goals
- A letter from your parent or guardian stating that they approve of your application, why they think you would benefit from the Scholarship, and that are prepared to commit the time and support necessary to care for the horse
- A letter from your current coach supporting your application, and why they think you would benefit from the Scholarship, and stating how they will be involved in the preparation of this young horse

Applications must be received by 30 June 2017. Successful finalists will be notified by email and will be required to attend the Brisbane CDI on 15th July, 2017, when the winner will be announced and presentations made.

APPLICANT NAME: _____ D.O.B: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____, POSTCODE: _____

DISCIPLINE: _____

MOBILE: _____ EMAIL: _____

PLEASE ATTACH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO SUPPORT YOUR APPLICATION:

- LETTER OF APPLICATION
- LETTERS OF SUPPORT: Please attach letters of support as detailed below from:
 - parent/guardian
 - current coach. This letter should make reference to your dedication to dressage, your determination to succeed and your current strengths and weaknesses. This is to do with your skill as a rider, and your determination to succeed in your chosen discipline

PLEASE FORWARD YOUR APPLICATION TO CHERYL O'BRIEN AT: remistud@bigpond.com



Team Van Den Berge



Pony Club Australia Awards

2017



The Pony Club Australia Awards reward our riders, coaches, officials and volunteers for achievements and contributions to the development of Pony Club.



Overview

Pony Club Australia (PCA) is committed to educating young riders in a safe and friendly environment. PCA offers a diverse range of disciplines and supports members to reach their full potential. In so doing we rely on the capabilities and contributions of all our coaches, officials and supporters. Recognising and rewarding achievements of our riders and coaches, and expressing gratitude to our volunteers is an essential part of our culture.

The key elements of success for our organisation are reflected in the following awards:

1. Best achievement by a rider under 17 years
2. Best achievement by a rider aged 17 -25 years
3. Pony Club alumnus
4. Coach of the year
5. Volunteer of the year
6. Club of the year

There will be one award for each category annually. However, the judging panel may decline to make an award for any category if it determines there is not a submission of sufficient merit to be given an award.

Nomination Process

Each nomination must be accompanied with information on why the nominee/s should be considered for the award. Each of the assessment criteria are equally weighted. Nominations must be submitted electronically (via email) to info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au

- **Nominations are expected to be around one page in total.**
- **Please address the Key Selection Criteria for the award.**
- **Nominations should focus on the nominee's activities in the preceding 12-18 months (from January 2016).**

Selection Process

The nominations will be considered by a judging panel of six people, made up of representatives of PCA and Member States.

The judging panel may decline to make an award for any category if it determines there is not a submission of sufficient merit to be given an award.

Prize

The winner/s of each award will receive an inscribed medallion or trophy and prize.

Award Ceremony

The awards will be presented at the National Championships Dinner in Toowoomba in September 2017.

Key Contact

If you require any further information regarding the program, or assistance in preparing a nomination, please contact: info@ponyclubaustralia.com.au

Nominations for the 2017 awards close on Friday 30th June 2017

Best achievement by rider under 17 years sponsored by Horseland

Selection criteria

1. Participation in Pony Club rallies and activities
2. Improvement in riding and leadership skills through diligence and effort
3. Club citizenship (eg. helpful to others)



Best achievement by rider 17 – 25 years sponsored by Horseland

Selection criteria

1. Participation in Pony Club rallies and activities
2. Improvement in riding and leadership skills through diligence and effort
3. Contribution to club or zone management and programs



The Gillian Rolton Alumnus award sponsored by PCA

This award is for a current or ex-Pony Club member over 25 years old who has gone on to be an active participant in the horse industry as a rider, leader or professional serving the horse industry (eg educator, journalist, vet). The nominee has taken inspiration from their time at Pony Club and been an ambassador for the organisation.

Selection criteria

1. Career achievements and profile
2. Contribution to the horse industry
3. Links to Pony Club, past and present.



The Kay Irving Award (Coach of the year) ² sponsored by Wini

Selection criteria

1. Contribution to development of the contemporary coaching program at Pony Club
2. Commitment to coaching excellence and personal professional development
3. Personal passion and resilience, including feedback from students and peers



www.wini.com.au

² Not open for direct nominations from Western Australia. Please contact the PCAWA office

Volunteer of the year – sponsored by HorseWyse²

Open to Helper, Administrator, Club Office holder, Official.

Selection criteria

1. Displays Pony Club values
2. Contribution to development of their Pony Club for the benefit of members
3. Commitment to good governance and professionalism



Club of the year – sponsored by Gow Gates³

Selection criteria

1. Implementation of initiatives to attract and retain members, inclusive and responsive to the needs of members
2. Good governance processes at club level - including completion of "Club Health Check", advocate of "Play by the Rules", safety program, succession planning
3. Innovation in club management, such as sponsorship programs, financial management, use of *MyPonyClub* database for management of memberships and events
4. Delivery of coaching syllabus, demonstrated achievements by members and coaches (eg certificates attained, NCAS coach accreditation)



³ Not open for direct nominations from Western Australia. Please contact the PCAWA office.