

Bendigo Pony Club  
P.O. Box 2257  
Bendigo Mail Centre 3554

April/May 2010

# Pony Express



## April

14th - Bealiba Horse Trials @ Charlton P/C Grounds

28th - Midland Zone Horse Trials @ Charlton P/C Grounds

## May

11th - Maryborough Pony club Horse Trials

18th-19th - Maldon Pony Club Horse Trials

**NOT ATTENDING THE RALLY?????**

**PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU NOTIFY SUE. IT IS MUCH EASIER TO ORGANISE GROUPS IF SHE KNOWS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING.**



## BENDIGO PONY CLUB INTERSCHOOL EQUESTRIAN TEAM CHALLENGE

Congratulations to the 2010 winning team Jemima Draper on Kylen Matisse, India Mitchell on Coelarah King, Georgia Newton on Taragon Park Tuxedo & Danni Altham on Dalbrae Viola

## WANTED

**MONTANNA MAUD  
WOULD BE GRATEFUL  
FOR ANY CHAFF OR  
FEED BAGS TO PUT  
HER HORSE POOP IN  
TO SELL.  
GO MONTANNA!!**



### **BIRTHDAYS**

#### *April*

Kaitlyn Carty - 28th

Holly Fitzpatrick -  
18th

#### *May*

Shaleah Bray - 22nd

Penny Loader - 18th

Tara McKenzie - 24th

Montanna Maud -  
30th

DCs message April/May

Hello All,

Another successful Interschool event done and dusted! We can all give ourselves a pat on the back for hosting such a great equestrian weekend of competition. Once again it was an enormous task to coordinate and as with other years, the week before the event Kerry and I had many phone conversations that ended with "Never again!" However once you see over 180 horses and riders out competing and having fun because Bendigo Pony Club made it happen you realise we have established an event of which we can all be proud.

This year's event was the most successful so far for the club financially and of course it is the Interschool funds that have enabled us to so drastically improve our clubs assets over the last few years. So whilst we all have to pull together and work hard for that one weekend a year every member of our club now and in the future reaps the benefits. Interschool funds also go towards subsidising the cost of the fantastic instructors we have every month and now that our club is smaller, our groups are smaller so each rider gets more out of every rally.

At the Interschool debrief meeting we discussed ways to improve and fine tune the event and it was discussed that each Bendigo Pony Club family needs to give 8 hours assistance over the Interschool weekend. It is a mammoth task requiring all hands on deck and we are always scratching for help to fill jobs to make the weekend run more smoothly. This year it was so gratifying to be offered help from people who aren't even Bendigo Pony club members. The club owes a debt of gratitude to Bec Eaton from Mandurang South pony club who volunteered to gear check on Saturday as her daughter was competing. Then she volunteered again on Sunday and as Bec is the best gear

checker in our zone (possibly in the whole State) I gratefully accepted her offer. Past BPC members Bronte and Phil Monaghan also volunteered their time as ring stewards on Sunday and Phil also turned up to set up the rings for Sunday on Saturday evening. We look forward hopefully to the Monaghan family returning to our club soon.

Lauren, Ros, Leonie and the other canteen Queens did an amazing job keeping everyone well fed over the weekend and special mention needs to be made of Craig Trahair who as it turns out is Bendigo Pony Clubs very own Master Chef. Lauren also displayed some skill as the PA announcer on Sunday although she had a few competitors scratching their heads wondering why they had to "get mounted" for a Handler class!

Kerrie Long works for many hours leading up to the Interschool's getting the entries sorted and attending to a myriad of other jobs. Our thanks to Kerry and also to the rest of the Long household who are very patient with the fact that in the week before the event their home phone NEVER stops ringing whilst their wife /mother spends all her awake hours muttering murderously at the computer!

It was wonderful to see some new faces at the debrief meeting. More people getting actively involved with the running of Bendigo Pony Club means our club will continue to develop and go onto to bigger and better things.

As I said earlier, we have an event and a club we can all be very proud of J

Happy Horsing,

*Sue*



*R.I.P Kevin Gibbins*

26/4/1955 – 9/4/2010

Bendigo City Councillor Kevin Gibbins was a wonderful supporter of Bendigo Pony Club and a respected horseman. He will be sadly missed.



## The Horseman's Prayer

Give me strength to guide my horse.

Make my hands soft and my head clear.

Let my horse understand me, and I him.

My heart you have blessed with a special love of these animals, let me never lose sight of it.

My soul you have gifted with a deep need for them, let that need never lessen.

Always let my breath catch as the sun gleams on an elegant head.

Always may my throat tighten at the sound of a gentle nicker.

Let the scent of fresh hay and the touch of a warm nose on my hand always bring a smile.

I adore the grace and splendour of a running horse, the thunder of its hooves makes my eyes burn and my heart soar.

Let it always be so.

Dearest Creator, grant me patience, for horses are harnessed wind and wind can be flighty.

Let me not frighten or harm them, instead show me ways to understand them.

Above all, Dear Creator, fill my life with them.

I am not whole without them.

When I pass from this world, send my soul to heaven with them.

For this love you have given me graces my existence and I shall cherish it for all time.

Author Unknown

## DISMOUNTING AT VERERINARY IN- SPECTION AFTER CROSS COUNTRY

This rule has changed. You **do not** have to wait for vet/steward to say you can dismount. You may dismount at any time without fear of being eliminated. This rule is a relic from the FEI rules when competitors had to weigh in at the completion of the Cross Country.



It was decided at the last committee meeting to run some Gear Checking lessons for all our parent supporters. These lessons will be run after lunch over the next few rallies. Please check the PCAV website - **Gear Check Rules** and familiarise your self.

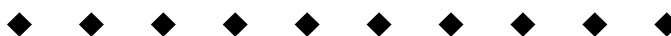
## Some useful Horse Trials information

### How are dressage scores worked out

In **Pure** dressage i.e. dressage only (not Horse Trials or Combined Training) the best score is the **Highest Score**.

In **Combined Training & Horse Trials** events the Dressage test score is turned into a **Penalty Points Score**. The total points are deducted from the total possible – as documented on the bottom of the test paper – this will give you the Final Mark. So for these events the best score is the **Lowest Score**.

The score is then added together with the penalty points in the Show-jumping and or Cross Country phase to give the end score. Overall the rider with the lowest amount of penalties wins the event.



Figuring what size girth your horse takes is a simple process. All you need is a tape measure and a calculator (or a brain that can do simple math). Asking someone to assist you makes it a bit easier and eliminates trying to wrangle around the horse.

Here's how to do it:

Have your horse stand on a level surface. Pass the tape measure around his body where the girth will rest - between his elbows and withers. (See diagram below). Make the two ends meet and pull it snugly. Take a look at the number. This is your horse's heart girth. This simple formula will calculate your horse's girth size. **Take your measurement in inches, divide it by two, and subtract 3.**



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*“When you are young and fall off a horse, you may break something.  
When you are my age, you splatter”.*  
*- Roy Rogers*

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## **DOES YOUR SADDLE FIT**

**These are the key features which must be adhered to when assessing the saddle fit to the horse's back:**

**1.** There should be no restriction of the horse's shoulder blade when in movement... the points of the saddle should sit an inch or two behind the shoulder blade to allow for its rotation.

**2.** Discomfort and restriction of movement will be caused by the back of the saddle sitting behind the last rib. The weight of rider and saddle cannot be supported beyond this point on the horse's back.

**3.** Front arch of the saddle should have adequate clearance over the withers, and not be tight laterally so as to 'pinch' the withers. As a rough guide, with a seated rider there should be at least 2 fingers' width vertical clearance between the horse's wither and the underside of the arch of the saddle.

**4.** The central gullet of the saddle panel (underside) must ALWAYS maintain sufficient clearance above the horse's spine. Not having full clearance here can have dire consequences to the comfort and well-being of the horse, as sores, bruising, discomfort and, at worst, damage to the vertebrae can be caused by direct pressure here.

**5.** Any pinching of the spinal areas of the horse's back caused by a 'too narrow' gullet can also cause soreness, soft swelling and discomfort which will again detract from the horse's ability to move freely and happily.

**6.** You need to be sure of all the points listed above, and that the saddle sits comfortably with an even bearing surface at the front and the rear, and that the balance of the saddle is correct (as detailed above).

**REMEMBER ...a sore and unhappy horse will never perform to it's best ability!**

Learn to recognize changes in your horse's shape. This will be related to his age, the amount of work he does, and his feed management. Any changes may seem inconsequential to you, as you see him every day, but over a period of time these changes may substantially affect his saddle fit. Have your saddle checked regularly by an experienced saddler.

All purpose, eventing, close-contact and dressage saddles are measured from the button or rivet at the front of the pommel to the highest point of the cantle.



Without errors, there are no victories  
 Without training, there are no accomplishments  
 Without trying, there is no hope  
 Without failing, there are no improvements  
 Without an effort there is no pride  
 Without learning to fall, you cannot get back up  
 Without a challenge, there is no objective  
 Without dedication, there is no passion  
 Without will, there is no teamwork  
 Without trust, there is no chance..



“The Easter Bunny is coming”

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#### Bendigo Pony Club Calendar 2010

January 30 <sup>th</sup>	Horse Trials Clinic with Allan Mitchell, Nina & Yona Lloyd at Mandurang South pony club Grounds
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Show jumping clinic Allan Mitchell @ Mandurang Sth
February 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rally
February 19 <sup>th</sup>	“C” Certificate nominations close
March 7 <sup>th</sup>	Rally
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	“C” Certificate theory exam
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Allan Mitchell Show jumping clinic B.P.C grounds
April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	“C” Certificate riding exam
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	“Donaldson Day” Rally B.P.C grounds
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Eventing clinic with Allan Mitchell venue TBA
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Working Bee @ Bendigo Show grounds 2pm start
April 10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup>	Bendigo Pony Club Interschools Equestrian Team Challenge@ Bendigo Show Grounds
May 2nd	Rally
June 6 <sup>th</sup>	Rally
June 19 <sup>th</sup>	Show jumping clinic with Allan Mitchell BPC grounds
July 4 <sup>th</sup>	Rally
July 10 <sup>th</sup>	Working Bee Bendigo Show grounds 2pm start
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	BPC Combined Training & Dressage Competition@ Bendigo Show grounds
July 16 <sup>th</sup>	“C” Certificate nominations close
July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Show jumping with Allan Mitchell, Dressage with? @ Bendigo Pony Club grounds
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	“C” certificate theory examination
August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Rally
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Eventing clinic with Allan Mitchell venue TBA
August 21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup>	“C” certificate riding exam
September 4 <sup>th</sup>	Show jumping clinic with Allan Mitchell
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rally
September 11 <sup>th</sup>	Working Bee Bendigo Show grounds
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	Bendigo Pony club EV affiliated Open Show
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Rally
November 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>	Pony club camp & rally @ Bealiba Pony Club grounds
December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rally Christmas Break Up

**PRODUCT RECALL**

**DUBLIN ONYX HELMET**

The manufacturer of Dublin Onyx helmets wishes to voluntarily recall all Black or White basic Dublin Onyx helmets for inspection due to a possible manufacturing fault.

The outer shell is coming away from the foam inner due to insufficient gluing at point of manufacture. This problem affects only the basic Dublin Onyx Helmet in Black & White (item codes: 441218-441241) and does not affect Purple Onyx helmets, wick lined or leather harness versions.

The problem only affects stock made in China, not previous made in New Zealand. You can identify if your helmet was made in China by looking for the internal sewn in label with "Made in China" on the reverse side.

If you have purchased this item since December 1st 2009, please contact the store of purchase urgently to arrange inspection of your helmet.



**The Committee and Members of Bendigo Pony Club thank Judy & Frank McArthur of Horseland Bendigo for their major sponsorship of the 2010 Bendigo Pony Club Inter-school Equestrian Team Challenge**



**Horseland**

**201 Breen St**

**Bendigo 3550**

**Phone: 5443 5533**



## **BENDIGO PONY CLUB 2010 INTERSHOOL EQUESTRIAN TEAM CHALLENGE SPONSORS**

Bendigo Pony Club gratefully acknowledge the generous sponsorship of the following businesses and asks that you support them.

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**Bendigo Ph: 54418896**

**Bendigo Animal Hospital**  
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**Eaglehawk Hotbake & Café**  
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