



August 2009

# Pony Express

## Bendigo Pony Club

P.O. Box 2257

Bendigo Mail Centre 3554

### August

9<sup>th</sup> - Maryborough PC - Hose Trials

16<sup>th</sup> - Zone Flat & SJ Shield Team - Bealiba

30<sup>th</sup> - Maldon PC Showjumping Series

### September

13<sup>th</sup> - Bendigo Pony Club EFA Open Show & Gymkhana - Bendigo Show Grounds

19<sup>th</sup> - Allan Mitchell clinic - BPC grounds

27<sup>th</sup> - Neangar Pony Club - Open Gymkhana

## Open Show! - Helpers needed

Our next event coming up is our Open Show to be held on **Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> September** at the showgrounds. As usual we require lots of help on **Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> from 3pm** onwards. We will meet at the club rooms to collect our equipment and then head to the showgrounds. There is five show rings to be organized, as well as the canteen to be set up. Could you please let Sue know when you are available? We will need cakes for the canteen and

lots of helpers on the day. Again, many hands make light work, which also makes events like these, run smoothly and successfully for our club, which benefits all our children.

## Important Information

At our last committee meeting it was decided that:

1. At our competitions ALL Bendigo Pony Club helpers pay for their own food from the BPC canteen. Profits from the canteen benefit all club members so only NON BPC helpers/judges/stewards will be supplied with free food.
2. On rally days all riders are to stay in their own group for the day. If a rider does not wish to participate in their group's activity they are to remain with the group unmounted or help with the Saddle Club. In regard to leaving the rally early or arriving late, rally attendance will be granted

according to our bylaws: The need to arrive late or leave early on a rare occasion is understood. However regular occurrences (i.e.: more than 3per annum) will result in "absent" being recorded in the membership card. This is because the PCAV expects that the attendance qualifications will be achieved by attending full rallies. Also it is unfair that frequently tardy members should be granted a rally when other members attend all day.



## D.C's Message

Hello All,

Congratulations to our Flat team who placed 6<sup>th</sup> at the Zone Flat & Show Jumping Shield held at Bealiba on August 16<sup>th</sup>. The team consisted of Shaleah Bray, Morgan-Rose Maud, Hannah Mika and Shannon Stone. The girls were beautifully presented and all riders and their horses did a great job.



Our club also had two show jumping teams: Samuel Nielsen, Tegan Tresize, Morgan Maud, Hannah Mika, Ashlea Howard, Tori Faull and Shaleah Bray. Shannon Stone competed in the individual show jumping competition. All riders rode well and I saw some very happy F grade riders receiving well deserved ribbons! Well done to you all for representing your club and showing great sportsmanship and team spirit. While a ribbon is the icing on the cake being part of the competition and having fun is what it's all about!



With the introduction of the new 'F' grade in show jumping, more riders will be eligible to be graded for pure show jumping. These rules & grades are different to horse trials and combined training.

To learn about show jumping please go to:

[http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au/site/ponyclub/vic/downloads/Publications/Rules and Regulations/Showjumping/PCAV SJ Rules July 09](http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au/site/ponyclub/vic/downloads/Publications/Rules%20and%20Regulations/Showjumping/PCAV%20SJ%20Rules%20July%2009)

To learn the heights and rules for horse trials please go to:

<http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au/site/ponyclub/vic/downloads/Publications/Rules%20and%20Regulations/Horse%20Trials/Horse%20Trials%20Rules%20updated%20July%202009.pdf>

Some other important Zone presentations were awarded at Bealiba. Peggy Mills, who is a very good friend to Bendigo Pony Club, was awarded a well deserved Midland Zone Life Membership. Peggy has worked tirelessly for years helping our zone with show jumping and our zone is very lucky to have her knowledge and expertise available to us.

Along with Kira Chalmers from Neangar Pony Club and Justine Roach from Maldon Pony Club, our own Britt Holmberg was presented with the Pony Club Award of Merit. This award is given for service to Pony Club. Britt has been a member of Bendigo Pony Club since she was 12 and right through her secondary school years she rarely missed a rally. Britt has done a lot of work over the years behind the scenes, especially on the computer formatting timetables for rallies, clinics and competitions. (I think she is a bit relieved that my computer skills are improving!) Congratulations on your award Britt!

Til next time,  
Happy horsing,

*Sue*





## Happy Birthday

Maddison Maud - 20/8

Happy birthday to you Maddie

(February wasn't a popular month for conception)



### Club News

#### UNIFORM REMINDER

#### RALLY DAY UNIFORM

- Bottle green jumper worn with white shirt & gold tie.
- Short sleeve green polo shirt – for warmer weather
- Long sleeve green & gold rugby jumper with BPC & PCAV logos
- Beige, black or green jodphurs
- Please note: riders are NOT to wear their polo top under the BPC jumper

#### COMPETITION UNIFORM

- Bottle green jumper worn with white shirt & gold tie - for all dressage tests, showing etc.
- Long sleeve green & gold rugby jumper with BPC & PCAV logo – for cross country & show jumping

#### SALE OF SECOND HAND GEAR

- If members wish to bring along second hand gear on a rally days to sell you are more than welcome. Please make sure that items are priced and with your name on items, if there are any queries. Please make sure that you take your items home at the end of the day, as the PC will not be responsible for any items left at the club rooms.

## Your Horse is Your Gift

To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child. For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice. Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humour. Those prone to humour will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people - which make the whole partnership thing all the more interesting. If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive." In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work"; you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven. You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow. We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honour our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle. Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

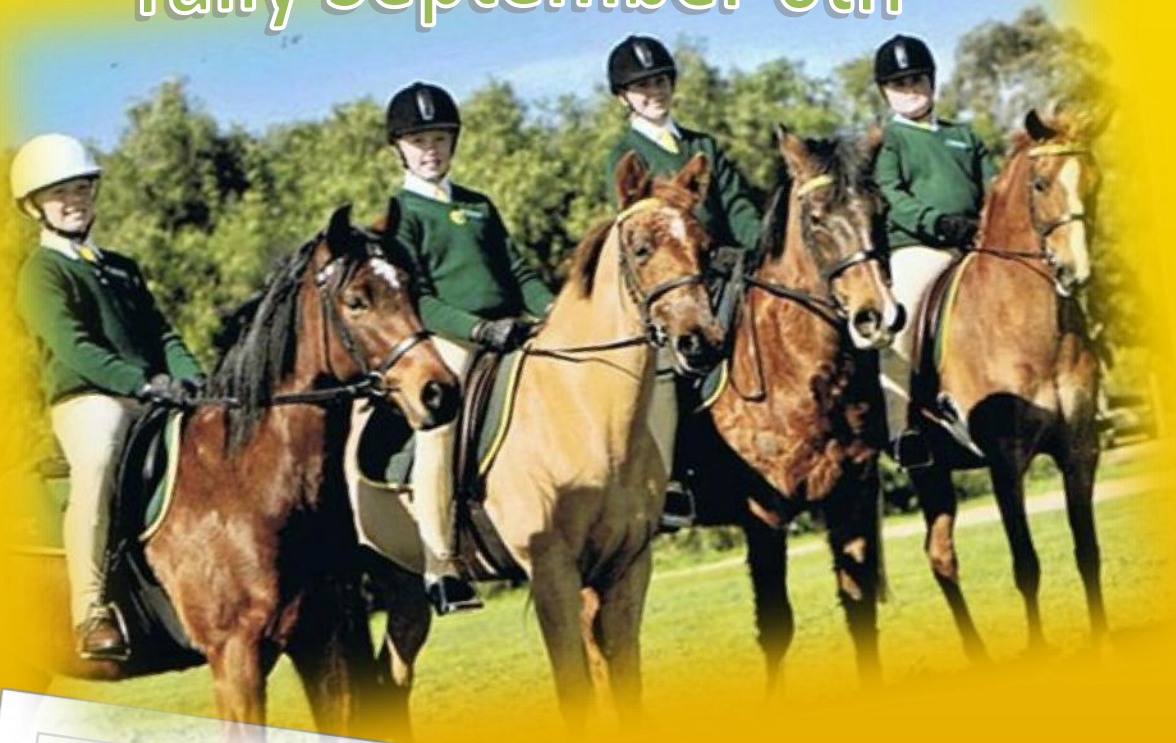
In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses--or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

Author Unknown

Fathers Day



# Bendigo Pony Club Fathers Day rally September 6th



BENDIGO PONY CLUB invites you and your family or friends to our father's day rally and special delectable lunch.

DON'T FORGET to let Lauren know on [ssp\\_home@msn.com](mailto:ssp_home@msn.com) to advise number of guests attending and what you will be bringing.

Please provide salad and/or dessert TO FEED 6 TO 8 PEOPLE...

This will be a great opportunity to see the children participating in something they love to do.

# Photos

Mary, Shaleah & Morgan at Bealiba



Hannah Mika & Montana Maud winners at Spring Gully/Huntly



Kaye, Peggy & Sue at Bealiba



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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.bendigoponyclub.com.au](http://www.bendigoponyclub.com.au)

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