

## **End of year report 2010**

2010 will be go down in history as the year the weather remembered how to rain.... and then forgot how to stop! Whilst it is wonderful to see the water storages filling again a lot of the rain has fallen over the weekends which has been extra challenging for all outdoor sports, horse sport included. It has been very hard on smaller clubs who have had to cancel much needed fund raising events.

Bendigo Pony club started 2010 with a fundraising horse trials clinic in January for local accident victim Stu Timms at Mandurang South pony club grounds. The clinic raised \$1500 to assist Stu with his rehabilitation. Clinics are fantastic for allowing riders to train with top instructors and hone their riding skills. A few of our members who rode at the Mandurang clinic had just competed at the Summer Royal Horse show, proving what great all rounders they are.

February saw many of our riders compete successfully at Barastoc. Samuel Nielsen did a great job representing the Midland Zone in a B grade show jumping team that placed 5<sup>th</sup> at the State show jumping and dressage championships in Sale.

March was a quiet month for the club and then we were into April and the Interschool Equestrian Team Challenge. Once again this was a very successful weekend with all our members getting involved to contribute to the smooth running of the event and ultimately to the profit this event makes which goes in part towards subsidising the cost of the fantastic instructors we have at our rallies throughout the year. On average the club spends \$700 per rally on instruction. Each rally costs riders only \$9.45. Every Bendigo pony club rally is like a clinic, so this is exceptional value. If we didn't fund raise our fees would have to be more than double what they are now just to cover the instructor's costs.

Due to a clash with Easter the Donaldson Day Rally was held in May. Congratulations to Montanna Maud, Morgan Maud and Hannah Trahair who won the junior, intermediate and senior highpoint awards respectively.

May was also the month for the club's garage sale giving us all the opportunity to get rid of some pre loved goods and snavel a bargain

Morgan Maud, Sally Dwyer and Angela Goudge all passed their C certificates in 2010 which was a great achievement and qualifies them to compete at State events.

In July Shaleah Bray headed off to Werribee to represent our club and zone in the grades 3 & 4 Interzone team Horse Trials challenge, proving that show ponies can do horse trials. This effort earned Shaleah her PCAV State competitor's badge.

September was the date of our Open show which again attracted quality horses. The numbers in the pony club ring and the fun ring were down but there are plans afoot to improve this for next year.

In November we shared a camp at Bealiba with Mandurang pony club. This was so much fun and I am already looking forward to the November camp in 2011.

As the year draws to a close it is gratifying to look back at what our club has achieved in 2010. Due to the fact that we have made a concerted effort to fund raise over the last few years the clubs assets have improved dramatically. Our members get to jump state of the art show jumps and to school over cross country jumps, our groups are small and our instructors are the best.

At any given time a committee is just the caretaker of a club. I think that responsibility involves looking after the present members but also planning for the future. When I look back at what this committee and the members have achieved for the club during 2010 I feel we have lived up to our responsibilities and that the future of Bendigo Pony Club remains bright.

I would like to thank the club president John Faull and all the committee members for their support and commitment to Bendigo Pony Club during 2010. My extra special thanks go to Lisa Maud, Kerry Long, Deb Degenhardt and Lauren Knight for your friendship, your dedication to the club, but most of all for just “getting” it!

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a wonderful time with your friends and family (those with 4 legs as well as 2) over the holiday season,

*Sue*

