

PONY EXPRESS

Bendigo Pony Club Inc.

P.O. Box 2577,

Bendigo Mail Centre, 3554.



February Newsletter 2009

TIME SPENT WITH
HORSES
IS NEVER WASTED
-Sigmund Freud



Up Coming Events

February

- 15th - Glenlyon PC - Horse Trials
- 17th - St Arnaud PC - Summer Gymkhana
- 21st - HT Clinic @ Kyneton PC Grounds - Allan Mitchell, Nina & Yona Lloyd
- 22nd - Showjumping Clinic @ Bendigo PC Grounds - Allan Mitchell

March

- 9-10th - Castlemaine PC - Showjumping & Dressage Series
- 22nd - Bealiba PC Horse Trials @ Charlton PC Grounds
- 28th - Monster Garage Sale @ Bendigo PC Grounds
- 30th - State Dressage & Showjumping championship @ Elmore Event Centre

Happy birthday to you



Shannon Stone - 1st
Tori Faull - 11th



As the new PC year begins again please remember to let your DC know the Monday before the rally if you will be attending.

Her email is:



skfoley40@hotmail.com

Remember if you don't let Sue know that you are coming, you will not be placed into a group for the first lesson of the day.



Here is our Calendar for 2009. Please take note of our two major events this year, those being our Interschool Challenge on the 18th & 19th April, and State Horse Trials on the 2nd & 3rd May being our rally day.

Bendigo Pony Club Calendar 2009

January 31st	Horse Trials Clinic with Allan Mitchell at Mandurang South pony club Grounds
February 1st	Rally
February 21 st	Horse trials clinic with Allan Mitchell & Yona & Nina Lloyd
February 22nd	at Kyneton Pony Club Grounds Show jumping clinic Allan Mitchell BPC grounds
March 1st	Rally
April 5 th	Donaldson Day Rally BPC Grounds
April 8 th & 9 th	2 day clinic & camp with Allan Mitchell at Maldon Pony
April 17 th	Club grounds Working Bee Bendigo Show grounds 2pm start
April 18 th & 19 th	BPC Interschools Equestrian Team Challenge Bendigo Show grounds
April 26th	Allan Mitchell Clinic at BPC grounds
May 2 nd & 3rd	State Horse Trials Gr1 & Gr 2 hosted by Midland Zone
May 3rd	Rally at State Horse Trials Venue
June 6th	Allan Mitchell Clinic BPC grounds
June 7th	Rally
July 5th	Rally
July 6th	Allan Mitchell Clinic BPC grounds
July 11th	Working Bee Bendigo Show grounds 2pm start
July 12th	BPC Show jumping and Dressage Championship Bendigo Show grounds
August 2nd	Rally
September 6th	Rally
September 13th	BPC dressage & Show jumping Spring Series
September 19th	Allan Mitchell Clinic BPC grounds
October 4th	Rally
November 1st	Rally Nav ride Malone Park Combined rally with Mandurang South Pony club
December 6th	Christmas Break up Rally

CHECK THIS OUT

The Ventriloquist

A young ventriloquist is touring the clubs and one night he's doing a show in a small town in Queensland. With his dummy on his knee, he starts going through his usual dumb blonde jokes when a blonde in the 4th row stands on her chair and starts shouting: "I've heard enough of your stupid blonde jokes. What makes you think you can stereotype women that way? What does the colour of a person's hair have to do with her worth as a human being? Its guys like you who keep women like me from being respected at work and in the community and from reaching our full potential as a person. It's you and your kind that continue to perpetuate discrimination against not only blondes, but women in general, and all in the name of humour!" The embarrassed ventriloquist begins to apologize, and the blonde yells, "You stay out of this mister! I'm talking to that little man on your knee."



IN HAND SHOWING

RINGCRAFT

The object of the exercise is to show your horse in the best possible way so that the judge cannot fail to notice it. The most important thing you have to remember is that from the moment you enter the ring and for every moment you are in it your horse is on show. Anyone who has ever judged will tell you that there may only be one judge in the ring but there is at least ten more looking on. There may even be someone watching who will be judging your horse next time out.

Although the competition is judged according to the performance and impression of the horse on the day in the opinion of that particular judge, judges are only human and can be influenced by past impressions too. An efficient and well-turned-out exhibitor can contribute to this impression just as much as the look of the horse, so remember to dress neatly and correctly for the particular class you are entering.

1. Before entering the ring.

Before you enter the ring leave enough time for the last minute touch up, wipe your horse over with a soft clean cloth, and remove stray hair and dust, and tough up the hoofs. As you enter the ring make sure that your horse is leading well with the degree of activity that suits it best, that you are level with its shoulder and have a good contact with its head, that your lead rein is held securely and tidily with no trailing ends.

2. Entering the ring.

In nearly all in-hand classes the leader goes on the outside of the ring and the horses circuit the

ring in a clockwise direction. Allow plenty of space between your horse and the horse in front so that you are not forced to check your horse behind a slow moving horse and so that you don't get kicked. You should keep an eye on the ring steward next to the judge for further instructions.

3. The trot.

Competitors are asked to trot past the judge who will be looking at the action in profile, for such things as knee action and engagement of the hocks. When you start to trot balance is everything, so you should still be level with the shoulder and able to run fast enough to keep pace with the horse, rather than hanging back and pulling the horse's head around you, which can make it look as if the horse is throwing the offside foreleg.

4. The line up.

Usually the judge will call in the best first but not always. If there are a lot of competitors don't be lulled into a false sense of security and let your horse go to sleep, even if you think the judge may not appear to be watching they actually might be. At the signal of the steward or judge walk your horse forward smartly.

5. Standing up for the judge

When called you should walk forward away from the distraction of the other horses and halt in front of the judge. You will have a few seconds to stand your horse up so that the judge can look at the general conformation of your horse.



6. The individual show

When the judge has seen enough at the halt you will be asked to walk away, turn and then trot back past the judge and return to the line. As you walk away he will be standing behind you to watch correct movement, and when you turn to trot back he will again be watching for correct movement.

7. The final walk round.

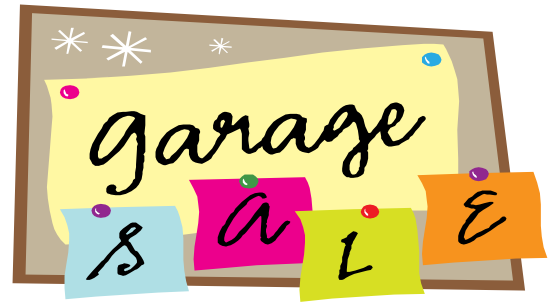
If the judge has difficulty deciding or want to check something, some of the competitors may be asked to walk around the judge in a smaller circle. As before you should give yourself enough space so that your horse is not impeded by others.

8. Calling in and final judging.

When the steward call you in, you should walk smartly to where you are previously lined up and halt. Keep an eye on the proceedings. Even if you are not the apparent winner you should still present your horse to the judge, because a pleasing aspect can sometimes result in a last minute change of place.

9. Presentation of ribbons

Whatever your final placing, when you are handed your ribbon you should thank the judge, politely and look reasonably pleased even if you are disappointed. There is nothing worse than a sore loser. You can now give your horse a pat. It is common practice to leave the ring in the order in which the class was judged with the first place getter in the lead.



Don't forget about our Garage Sale on Saturday 28th March.

Book a site, go through your shed, garage, and cupboards and bring it along to sell, horse gear, household items, anything that

someone else might be interested in buying.

Remember

what you think might be junk some else might think as treasure.



TO THE STABLE

Horses and Bushfires

Unfortunately Victoria is one of the most fire prone areas in Australia. High temperatures and limited summer rainfall produce conditions of very high fire danger in Victoria. There are steps that horse owners can take to prepare themselves in case their property ever lies in the path of an advancing bushfire. The key to survival is forward planning and self reliance.

Leave or Stay? ... It's Your Decision

The first and most important thing to decide is whether you intend to stay on your property if there is a bushfire or leave. If you decide you will leave, with



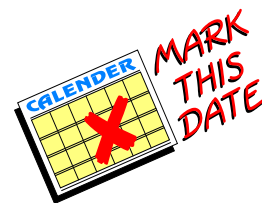
or without your horses, you must do it early on a high-risk day and in advance of knowing there is fire in your area.

Have a Plan

If you live in a high risk area it is essential to develop a fire safety plan before the fire season. This may include

- A plan for early evacuation. E.g. where to relocate your horses, which could be at sale yards, racetracks, pony club grounds, or with family and friends.
- Identifying a “safe” area on your property where horses can be placed if evacuation is not possible or practical. This area should be as large as possible, well fenced and where there are no trees or building nearby that will burn readily. Past experience of bushfires indicates that horses will suffer minimal burns if given maximum space. They will gallop through flames, or around their edges, and stand on the blackened, previously burnt area and remain there until the fire has passed.
- Remove all equipment from your horse. Rugs burn, plastic headstalls melt and metal buckles may get hot.
- Never turn your horses out on the road. They will be in danger from traffic and the fire. Do not shut horses in stables or small yards.

After the tragedy of the weekend's bushfires, every Pony Club Member should think about their own fire plan, if any of us have one at all? Just do it! It has been shown time and time again, if you don't take the above precautions within the next 24 hours, the chances are very likely you won't do anything at all to prepare for a fire emergency.



“C” Certificate nominations close on the 22nd February. The theory exam will be at Bendigo Pony club grounds on the 14th March. The ridden exam will be on Sunday 5th April. The venue is to be advised. Please let Sue know if you wish to sit this certificate.



D'C's Message

Hello All,

Well, once again Bendigo Pony club riders proved they can hold their own with the best pony club riders in the State as our riders achieved some amazing results at the Melbourne Summer Royal Horse Show at Werribee Park.

Georgia Welch won her Pony Club rider class, Britt Holmberg won her handler class and went on to be awarded Reserve champion Handler. Britt and Bart also placed 2nd in the Special Event for Pony Club Combinations and 6th in PC Mount 15-16 hands. Bronte Monaghan did a

fantastic job to place 4th in the PC mount 12-14 hands, Remy Monaghan placed 5th in her Handler class and looked sensational doing it, Morgan Marshall came 4th in her PC mount class and Jaclyn Long placed 5th.

Penny Loader, Samantha McIntyre and Shaleah Bray also represented our club. They all looked amazing as they were beautifully presented, rode very well and we are all extremely proud of their efforts. The classes were huge (up to 50) and took a very long time to judge, so it as a big achievement just to be there amongst such hotly contested competition.

It was wonderful to see riders and their families from our club at summer Royal who came to watch and support their fellow members. Well done to you all and I hope to see even more BPC riders at next year's event. It is a lot of fun!

Happy Horsing

Sue

