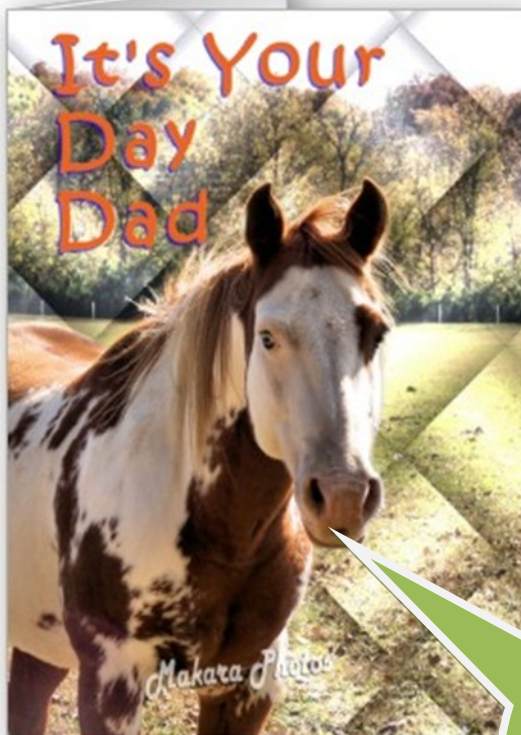


Bendigo Pony Club  
P.O. Box 2257  
Bendigo Mail Centre 3554

September 2010

# Pony Express



**Have a  
great  
one!!**



## September

12th - Bendigo PC Open Show - Bendigo show Grounds

18th - Maldon PC Show-jumping Series

19th - Maryborough PC Spring Showjumping Series

26th - Neangar Park PC Gymkhana

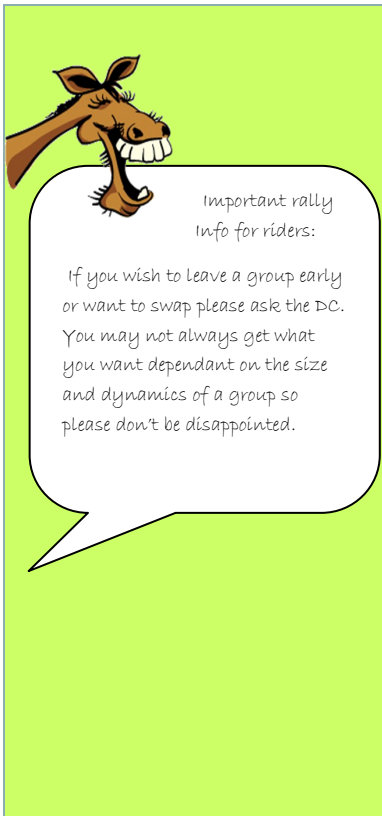
## October

10th - Neangar Park PC Combined Training Day

16th - Maldon PC Show-jumping Series

16th - Charlton Agricultural Show

31st - Mandurang PC Cross Country for Fun Day



Important rally  
Info for riders:

If you wish to leave a group early  
or want to swap please ask the DC.  
You may not always get what  
you want dependant on the size  
and dynamics of a group so  
please don't be disappointed.

**BIRTHDAYS**  
**SEPTEMBER**

Ebony Carty—30th  
Hannah Mika—17th



D.C.s message September 2010

Hello All,

I recently attended the PCAV AGM where our Midland Zone Representative Kaye Blanchard was presented with a PCAV Life membership. Kaye's involvement with pony club dates back many years to when her three children were members of Charlton pony club. She was there for her kids through their involvement with pony club and she is still there for every member of the Midland Zone to this day at all State and Zone events. Kaye is the type of person who gives 100% commitment to everything she does and this is the way she represents our zone. First and foremost she likes to see the kids having fun safely and Kaye can always be counted on for her commonsense approach and gentle good humour which is often needed where kids, horses and parents are involved. She has a wealth of pony club knowledge and experience and our zone is lucky that she is still as passionate about pony club now as she always has been.

In the annual report it was noted that the membership of PCAV has declined steadily from 8400 members in 2006 to just over 7000 members in 2010. This trend is reflected in the membership in the Midland zone which is down 7% since 2008.

A couple of our members have been out competing at zone events, representing both our club and our zone. Emma Lea rode in the D grade jumping events at the Zone show jumping and flat Team shield, winning one event. Well done Emma. Shaleah Bray was part of a Midland Zone team at the grade 3 & 4 Zone horse trials team challenge at Werribee during the weekend of July 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>. Shaleah and Amy had a fantastic weekend, really enjoying the chance to ride at Werribee and proving that show ponies look just as gorgeous out on a cross country course.

Congratulations to Angela Goudge who successfully passed her C certificate recently. This achievement puts Angela on track for her goal of competing at the State Horse Trials in 2011.

The date of our September show is drawing close. The programs are out, the ribbons are ordered and the judges are organised. There is a working bee at the show grounds on September 11<sup>th</sup> to set up for the show. Volunteers are needed to help in the canteen on the day of the competition and also to steward in the rings.

An order has been placed for a new Jump for Joy jump, also more poles, wings, jump numbers and a trailer to store and transport them. It is very gratifying to see the hard work and support of our club members at competitions and clinics result in the acquisition of such fantastic assets that will be of value and benefit to all Bendigo pony club members now and for the years ahead.

Happy Father's day to all our pony club Dad's for Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>. I hope to see you at our special Fathers day lunch at the September rally where we can all say a big thank you for the help and support you give at rallies, working bees and competitions so that your kids can enjoy the sport and animals they love.

Happy horsing,

*Sue*

## Canteen Duty.

As discussed at our rally every Bendigo Pony Club family will now be expected to assist in the canteen on a roster basis. On any rally day 3 families will be rostered on. The roster will consist of at least one family who has been at the club for some time. Families will only be rostered on for one rally per year. Families will be advised by phone 2 weeks prior to the rally. If you are not attending the rally please contact Lauren on 54354031

All food will be pre purchased and the menu will be planned

### If you are rostered on you will:

- Need to be at the canteen at **9.30am**. This allows you time to help your child prepare for gear check
- Need to stay in the canteen consistently until about **2.30pm**. You won't get to see much of your child at this rally but it is only one rally per year

### Your duties will include:

- take lunch orders,
- food preparation for orders taken,
- serving of ordered lunches
- cooking of the bbq,
- selling drinks, lollies cakes etc,
- clean up after lunch

If you have a child in Saddle Club you will need to organise someone else to lead your child for the day. Older unmounted riders may be available to help with this. Please contact the DC.

This is a great opportunity to meet other members of your club, and to see how things are run behind the scenes.



**Take note (and photos) of areas with drainage problems** so you can remember where to add fill or improve drainage once the ground is dry.

**Tighten or repair electric fence lines.** Rain, ice and wind can cause electric fence wire to become loose over the winter. Re-tighten insulators and re-tension the wires. Also check for downed branches or thick weeds that could short the circuit out.

## **Rain can bring problems for your horse**

### **Prevent Painful Horse Hoof Abscesses with Proper Equine Treatments & Care**

If you have never had any experience with hoof abscess, it can be a frightening thing indeed. Confusing at first, your horse may exhibit signs of being lame, or may simply baby one of their feet depending on the severity of the abscess, but have no worries. Hoof abscesses are a natural part of life for a horse, and occur more often than one might think.



A great deal of the lameness or lack of activity that horses exhibit come from hoof abscesses. They occur when objects get into the hoof; such objects are occasionally called 'gravel.' The foreign object can lead to an infection in the hoof that can be quite painful. Hoof abscesses can also be caused by something sharp having pierced the bottom of the hoof. If left untreated, a hoof abscess will get worse.

Weaknesses in the sole of the hoof can occur for a variety of reasons. Hoof imbalance from trimming mistakes and other things can lead to such a condition. If it is left untreated an abscess will move up the hoof and get progressively worse.

If your horse appears to have gone lame all of a sudden, consider the possibility of a hoof abscess. You may not always be able to see the wound in the hoof, as it is possible that it may have closed before the abscess formed. To properly treat an abscess, it is important to catch it as early as possible. Draining the infection is one way of treating an abscess, but the wound should not be large enough so that another abscess can occur. For the first two days of treatment, the use of a poultice in draining may be an effective option. This way, the foot does not have to be soaked (in most cases).

Remember that you should never try to drain an abscess on the sole of the hoof. This can make matters worse, leading to other infections and possibly infections of the bone. The treating veterinarian may make a puncture at the white line or in the sub solar tissue to attempt to cure this infection.

Occasionally, antibiotics may be administered to ease some of the pain of a hoof abscess.

Remember that hoof abscesses can be prevented! This is not a problem that just occurs in some horses and not in others. Proper trimming is a great way to offset the possibility of a hoof abscess, as imbalance is one of the leading causes, as is removal of the protective horn. Sure this may be more appealing to the eye, but it does not contribute to the health of the horse's hooves at all.

Too much wetness can lead to abscesses as well, so proper foot dressing is also an option when trying to prevent painful abscesses in the hoof.



Scald, or rain rot is caused by the fungal organism *Dermatophilus congolensis*. Scald is also called streptothricosis.

Contrary to what a lot of people think, the organism has not been demonstrated to proliferate or be present in dirt or soil. The organism is dependent on a carrier horse who has the organism on its skin, and who may or may not be affected by it.

There is some natural immunity, but some horses seem to be more susceptible to it, and that's why some horses get it year after year.

In order for a horse to get the disease, several conditions have to exist. You have to have an infected carrier animal, or a fomite such as a brush, blanket, or saddle that has the organism in the form of a spore that makes contact with the susceptible horse. There has to be some form of extreme moisture, like heavy rainfall.

This is somewhat a self-limiting disease. The horse will probably get over the problem as it sheds its hair coat. The organism is considered an aerobe or a facultative anaerobe. That means it prefers carbon dioxide or a lack of oxygen to grow. So, you need to get rid of the heavy hair coat and the scab that's holding the organism into the skin.

The first thing we do is use a soap - like an iodine soap - that lathers good and work that crust off that's created by serum oozing out through the skin. With gloves on, lather the horse good and try to break the scabs off, which is painful to the horse. Getting the scabs off and letting the air get to the ulcerated areas is the most important part, and it is the most difficult because the horse resists it. Since it's painful, sometimes it takes a couple of days working a little at a time.

Then, any kind of antiseptic is successful in killing the fungus. The one that we prefer to use is a mixture of lime and sulphur. It's made in a ratio of one part lime and sulphur to eight parts water. If you use it any stronger, it can blister the skin. The product is a fungicide that's used on plants like roses, so you can get it in a garden store. It's very effective, but the downside is that it has a very bad sulphur odour.

Other things that can be used are povidone-iodine (Betadine), Chlorhexadine, and phenol. Any one of them should be applied daily for five days.

There are complicating factors occasionally. Because this disease causes a moist, warm environment, it's a good place for a secondary bacterial infection like staph, strep, or Rhodococcus. The case can be more difficult to treat, and it might require systemic antibiotics. The Dermatophilus organism itself is very susceptible to penicillin, so your veterinarian may prescribe that for severe cases.

The best way to prevent spread of the disease is to use some form of disinfectant for brushes (like Clorox) and wash your hands thoroughly after working with an infected horse. Blankets shouldn't be used between horses, but if they are, they should be washed and disinfected before being used on another horse. Also, if the horse you're treating is blanketed, make sure to wash his blanket to prevent re-infection.

It's important to disinfect anything you use on an infected horse before using it on another horse - halters, saddle pads, brushes. Even if the horse has a favourite place he rubs, like a stall door or a fence, it can become a source of the organism.

Diagnosis is usually by clinical signs, and the disease can manifest itself in several ways. It can result in rather large, crusty, circular areas. It can also be in small, raised areas with small scabs (less than one-quarter of an inch). When it's like that, there will be a mass of raised hair all over the horse's back. In either case, there is a crust of serum that elevates the hair. As the disease progresses, the crust may increase to a quarter of an inch thick.

The disease is not usually associated with any discomfort or itching except when you remove the scab, which is painful. When you remove the scab, the skin underneath might be gray and healing, or pink and oozing

When the fungus appears around the back of the fetlock, it's known as pastern dermatitis, greasy heel, mud fever, or dew poisoning. Again, it's caused by the horse standing in water, or by excessive dew on the grass that keeps the feet wet. It's almost always associated at the fetlock with white skin, not dark skin.

The organism can cause problems anywhere on the horse's body, although the most common place is on the back. Other areas are around the eye and lip margins and at the tips of the ears - areas that are exposed to trauma.

Most veterinarians don't recommend pasterns because it holds moisture into the pasterns, such as Desitin or an anti-scab so the medication can get to the from the skin.



using ointment on any areas but the the skin. If you use an ointment on fungal, you have to get rid of the organism and hold the water away

# With the show season getting underway, here are a few things to think about when heading to a show:

## For you:

- Show Jacket
- Show Shirt (shirts get sweaty quickly, bring spares!)
- Collar Pin
- Breeches or jodhpurs (extras are good, in case one pair gets too sweaty or soiled)
- Hangers and Dry Cleaner Bags (Helps keep clothes clean)
- Helmet
- Lint Roller
- Show Boots (Make sure they stay shined, unscuffed, and in good repair!)
- Spurs (well fitted)
- Hair Nets
- Hair Ties
- Bobby Pins
- Hair spray
- Gloves
- Rain gear
- Any extras you might need for unforeseen problems/events

## For the horse:

- Feed
- Buckets, one water, one feed
- Hay
- Bedding
- Saddles
- Saddle Cloth
- Girth
- Bridles
- Rugs, float boots, tail wraps
- Saddle Racks
- Hoof Pick
- Brushes
- Horse Shampoo and Conditioner
- Show sheen
- Hoof Black
- Fly Spray
- Lunge Line & whip
- Braid Comb, rubber bands, needles, braiding thread
- Clippers, scissors
- Towels, sponge
- Basic horse first aid supplies
- Muck Bucket/Fork

- Clip the fetlocks on your horse's legs closely, as well as the longer hairs that grow on your horse's muzzle, face, ears, and throat. Also, always clip your horse a nice, clean bridle path - the length of the ear but for light breeds about an ear and a half. Clipping adds definition to your horse's body shape and improves the overall presentation before the judge. The judge will always choose a great performance over a mediocre one, and presentation is a key part in the judging process.
- Remember to warm up before your classes, and make sure you have fun at the show.
- Don't look down at your horse while riding, this creates a defeatist look. Instead, look straight ahead and always have a smile on your face. Most likely when the judge sees you, a smile will come to them too.
- Before a halter class, trot your horse around, to make sure he is awake. An alert horse looks better than one that is falling asleep.
- If you lose a stirrup in a class, wait until the judge isn't looking to fix it
- Don't worry about the other competitors. Act as if you were riding alone in your home arena. It will calm your nerves, and encourage you to pay attention to your own riding. Of course, be alert, and avoid running into the other riders in the ring.
- If clipping your pony for the show season, clip them 2 weeks before your first show, that way a healthy new coat will grown in, and there will be no visible line marks from the clippers.
- If your horse is white, you should consider chalking your horses legs, and massage it in, so it makes the legs look whiter.
- Never complain to the judge on why you did not place the way you wanted to. Instead, try and ask for reasons why you placed the way you did; it makes a better impression, and gives you more knowledge of the weaknesses you must address as a rider.
- When changing for classes, do not tie the horse up using the reins. If they pull back and break them you cannot show. Also if your horse pulls back they can seriously harm their teeth; there have been occasions where horses have broken teeth in that manner





**From John Faull Bendigo Pony Club President**  
Excerpt from the Bendigo Pony Club By-laws

#### 6A. DC

the DC is appointed each year by the committee and is responsible to the committee, the Midland Zone and the PCAV.

The DC's role is to arrange and co-ordinate all rally requirements including all activities, set-up, instructor recruitment and instruction. Further, the DC is responsible for grading all riders and their horses, safety issues and the general welfare of members.

#### 10. ATTENDANCE

##### A. LEAVING EARLY, ARRIVING LATE

If a rider needs to leave early the rider is expected to inform the Instructor and DC as a matter of courtesy and safety. The \*DC needs to know the whereabouts of riders and families at all times during the rally.

The need to arrive late or leave early on a rare occasion is understood. However regular occurrences (*i.e. more than 3 per pony club year*) 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 rewarded and qualify when other members attend all day.

*\* This means that riders and /or parental supporters must see the DC and only the DC (not the assistant DC or the President if the DC is present) if they wish to change groups or not participate in their group. The DC will consider each request individually.*

#### 16. PARENT INVOLVEMENT

As stated at the outset, there are many things to be organized at the club and the assistance of parents/guardians is a condition of membership.

##### A. SPECIFIC DUTIES - RALLY DAYS.

Each rally requires equipment to be set up. Set up commences at 8.30am and **everyone** is expected to help.

Each family will be called upon, in turn, to assist in the canteen by washing up after lunch. Any other offers of assistance would be appreciated e.g.: donation of food for sale, cooking food on the BBQ.

Each family will be called upon, in turn, to clean the toilets at the start of a rally.

Once the rally is over all the equipment needs to be stowed away. Sometimes things can be put away throughout the day at the direction of the DC. **Membership cards and newsletters will not be available for collection until the ground is clear.**

# BENDIGO PONY CLUB RIDER PROFILE

NAME: Sally Dwyer

AGE: 16

HORSE/S: Poetic Heights and Bundy

YEARS IN PONY CLUB: 8 years



MY HORSE IS SPECIAL BECAUSE..... We have a connection.

WHAT I LIKE MOST ABOUT PONY CLUB... The Lunches J

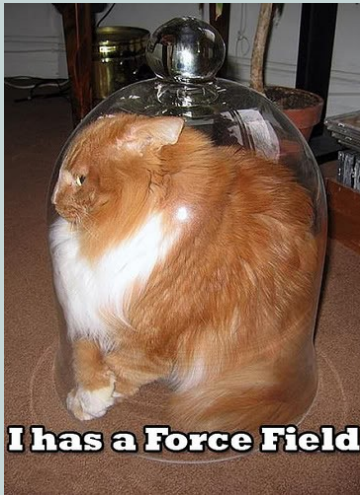
WHAT I DISLIKE MOST ABOUT PONY CLUB... Wish the grounds were bigger, so we could have more cross country jumps.

WHEN I'M NOT RIDING I LIKE TO... Play other sports, such as Hockey.

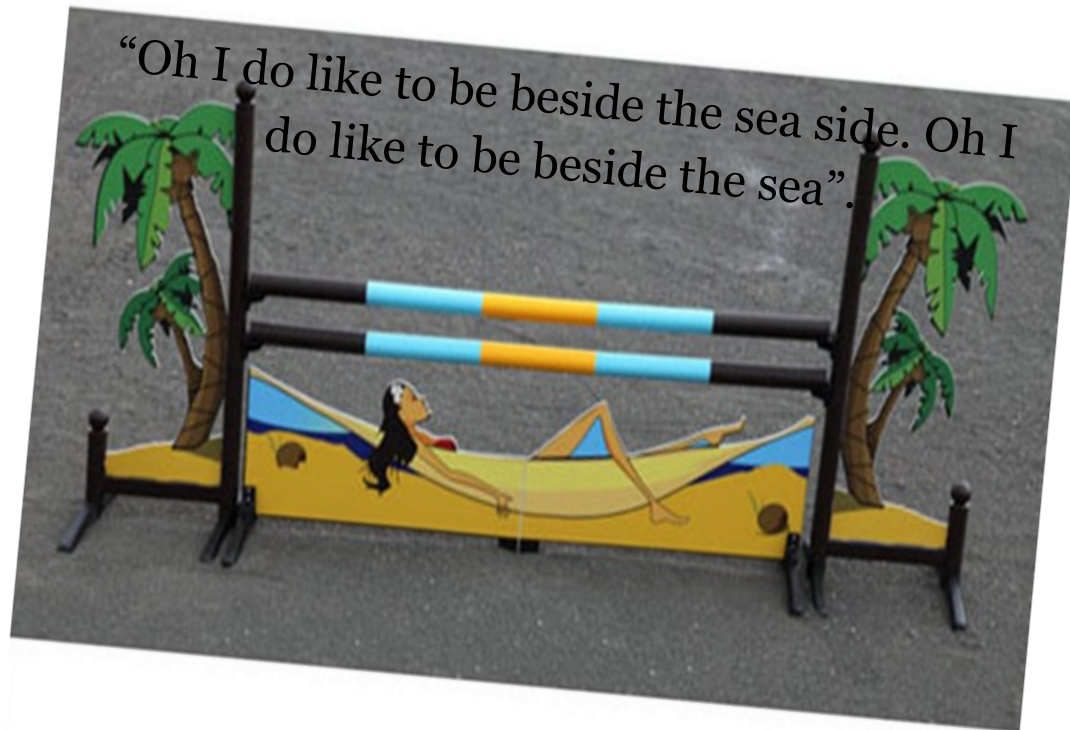
\*THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS ARE NOT NECESSARILY HORSE/PONY CLUB RELATED

THIS YEAR I REALLY WANT TO: Really want to do well at Bendigo Show.

IF I COULD HAVE ONE WISH IT WOULD BE: To have unlimited wishes.



What do we think the horse will do when they see this jump???



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