

**MPPC**

**New Member**

**Welcome Pack**

## Welcome to Mornington Peninsula Pony Club!

I would like to warmly welcome you to our club. We aim to provide a family friendly environment where your child/children can enjoy making new friends and learning new skills. We encourage you to invite grandparents and other family members to come along and enjoy the Pony Club days too. Below is some general information about our club:

### General Information:

Upon joining MPPC, you will receive a Pony Club Card where your details are recorded. You need to keep this card in a safe place and bring it along to each rally so that we can record your rally attendance. You will need this card for any PC competitions you enter. We will also give you a Pony Club badge which is part of your uniform and is to be worn on the V of your woolen jumper.

### Rally Day

Before each rally begins, each rider and support person/people need to come & sign in their attendance at the office. Riders are to leave their Pony Club Card at the office to be updated with their rally attendance. This is also your chance to chat to any of the committee members and ask any questions. Your Pony Club card will then be available for collection at the end of the day, once pack up has been completed.

Gear Check is carried out at the beginning of your first riding lesson, all riders need to be **ON TIME** to each lesson. Riding coaches are responsible for checking gear to ensure it meets PC standards for safety, cleanliness and horse welfare. Gear should be clean and well maintained. In particular, check the stitching in your stirrup leathers and reins, as these are often points of wear. Points are awarded at each rally and accumulate throughout the year; the rider with the highest points will receive a trophy at the end of year presentation night.

Generally, we offer rally lessons centred around the 3 main disciplines of Dressage/Flat, Show Jumping and Cross-Country Jumping; however, we also offer Mounted Games, Musical Rides, Team Flat, Ride to Time and other activities at different times. We also include theory lessons at most rallies for riders to work through their certificate books and have guest speakers at some lunch times to talk to members about relevant topics. We do, of course, try to cater to all riders' abilities, so if you don't want to participate in jumping sessions, we can offer 2 flat sessions instead, so long as prior notice is given.

Riders are placed into groups with much consideration by the DC and Chief Instructor; **at no time** is it permissible for riders to swap groups or not attend a group without first discussing it with the DC or Chief Instructor. As part of our Duty of Care to members, all riders must be in their designated group either mounted or unmounted **AT ALL TIMES**.

Pony Club is provided for our children's benefit. We provide a safe environment to make new friends, learn new skills and above all, have FUN. Sometimes our kids can be experiencing confidence issues with their pony or maybe things just aren't working out for them on a particular day – after all, horses are living, emotional, thinking creatures and don't always do what we would like them to do. We provide professional coaches at our rallies to help our kids with all of these issues and to make sure our kids have a good experience. Riding coaches need to know if there are any particular concerns; please let me know prior to lessons starting if we need to talk to a coach about anything.

Please refrain from interrupting lessons to talk to the coach or your child unless requested by the coach to do so.

Please let me know immediately if you have any concerns with a lesson or coach.

**RALLY ATTENDANCE RECORDS – Please note: for a rally to be recorded as attended, riders need to stay for the whole rally, unless notice has been given at RSVP for an early departure. For riders who suddenly need to leave early on rally day due to illness or horse health, rally attendance will be recorded upon discussions with the DC. Riders who do not give early notification and do not have a relevant reason for early departure may run the risk of non-attendance being recorded. If you can only ride for part of the day, unmounted attendance and/or theory lessons will be available.**

**COLLECTION OF PONY CLUB CARDS – your Pony Club card will not be available for collection until pack up duties have been completed; it is a requirement for all members to assist with pack up duties.**

## **Pony Club Grades:**

All Pony Club riders can generally be graded into one of the following grades:

- Advanced – Dressage Only
- Grade 1
- Grade 2
- Grade 3
- Grade 4
- Grade 5 (must be 8yrs to compete in horse trials)
- Grade 6 (up to 10 yrs; not yet capable of being Grade 5)

Grades are recorded in your Pony Club card and must be signed by the DC to be relevant.

These grades are available for Dressage Only, Show Jumping Only (based on jump heights), Combined Training (Dressage & Show Jumping), and Horse Trials (Dressage, Show Jumping & Cross Country). The grade for any horse/rider combination can be different for all 4 of the disciplines. Grading must be performed at Pony Club for the majority of riders and each horse/rider combination must attend 2 rallies prior to being graded.

The grading system is in place to keep riders safe and we highly encourage riders to remain at a graded level until the competency level has been reached to move up to the next grade. The longer a rider stays in a grade and builds skills, the more successful the rider will be at the new grade.

Grading is a requirement to be able to compete at Pony Club events in the PC Sections; otherwise, the rider can enter as an Open Competitor. All new members must have attended a minimum of 2 rallies in order to compete under PC rules; for renewing members, a minimum of 5 rallies must have been attended in the preceding 12 months and 2 of those on the horse being entered. If you require any further information on grading, please let me know.

## **Ready2Ride Rookie Program – Lead-line Program**

We offer Lead-Line groups to all beginner riders with their own pony, from 2 years of age. The Ready2Ride Rookie Group enjoys 2 lessons per rally, each around 45-60 minutes in length, where the

children learn balance and basic riding skills whilst having fun and playing games in our fenced Pink Arena. They also go for a trail ride around our XC course for a change of scenery. We will work through the E Certificate manual with all riders to help them learn about basic horse care etc.

Once able to ride independently, we encourage these riders to advance up a group, where they can be considered for Grade 6.

## **Games, Musical Ride, Team Ride Events**

Games, Musical Ride and Team Flat events are held each year in order to choose teams to represent our Zone (SMZ) and State, with the chance to then represent on a National level. We schedule practice sessions for each at rallies throughout the year and encourage all members to participate. They are all ridden as teams, they are lots of fun, and a great way to learn new skills. In past years, our riders have represented Zone, State and Nationals.

## **Ride To Time (RTT)**

This is a great activity for riders to learn how to pace their horse over a given distance. We generally hold sessions at rally twice per year, but the real fun is when Zone run their training events at Cranbourne Racetrack to choose riders to represent Zone at the State event. The past 2 years we have had riders representing at State, which is held at Moonee Valley Race Course.

## **Tetrathlon**

Another Zone and State event, this event consists of Show Jumping, Running, Swimming and Pistol Laser Shooting. We generally schedule Laser Shooting practice once per year and encourage any interested riders to participate in Zone and or State training days.

## **Uniform**

All riders are expected to wear the MPPC uniform to rallies and PC Competitions; riders should be presented neat and tidy, and visible piercings must be removed or taped.

A uniform list is included below with current pricing and items are available from the office on rally days between 10am and midday.

The Summer Uniform consists of MPPC polo top, light coloured (white, cream, beige) jodhpurs, riding boots and approved helmet – applicable October to March

The Winter Uniform consists of MPPC jumper, MPPC tie, white shirt, light coloured (white, cream, beige) jodhpurs, riding boots and approved helmet – applicable April to September.

Unmounted riders are expected to wear full uniform; however, jodhpurs can be dark coloured.

There are also items of MPPC uniform that are not compulsory; these are listed on the price list below:

### **UNIFORM LIST DECEMBER 2020**

Jumper	\$	75.00
Polo	\$	45.00
Tie	\$	20.00
Winter Jacket	\$	75.00
Hoodie	\$	65.00

Track Pants	\$	40.00
Cap	\$	20.00
Badge (replacement)	\$	15.00
Saddle Pad	\$	65.00

## Grounds Usage

We encourage all members to utilise the grounds in their own time. This is complimentary for all current members; you can invite non-members but they must also book using the below link and pay the fee. All riders must be members of PCAV, HRCV or EA to be covered for insurance.

YOU MUST use this booking system so we are COVID compliant. Select the MPPC Member option so you don't have to pay. If you are bringing non-member friends with you, then they will need to complete their own booking.

Here is the link

<https://www.trybooking.com/BMWGG>

- Please do not arrive before your ride time, and leave within your ride time. You are allocated a 2-hour spot which includes arriving and leaving the grounds in alignment with the COVID-19 rules
- In accordance with COVID rules, only 1 spectator per rider is permitted on the grounds. Please leave family and friends at home.
- There should be no more than 10 people including the riders and coaches at any one time using the grounds
- And please make sure, in accordance with PCAV recommendations, that you park at least 12m from other floats
- ALL MANURE must be taken home with you

## Pony Club Rules

Pony Club Official Rules can be found here:

<http://ponyvic.omnisportsmanagement.com/en-au/informationpages/rulesandguides.aspx>

## End of Year Presentations

Each year we hold our Annual Presentation Night, generally just after the start of the new membership year. The awards reflect the prior year's achievements by riders and are awarded for a variety of accomplishments:

Rally Attendance

Best Presented (Gear Check Points)

Most Improved (Votes awarded by coaches)

Positive Member (Votes awarded by coaches)

Best Combination (mount & rider) (Votes awarded by coaches)

DC's Award

President's Award

It is always a fun night out and a great way for members to socialise outside of rally days.

## **Pony Club Certificates:**

Junior and Associate club members are encouraged to take a series of PCAV Efficiency Tests and Certificates as they progress through Pony Club. These are designed to ensure that these club members undertake elementary studies in riding, horse handling and horse care. Certificates are qualifications that riders can earn by working through the Pony Club Australia Syllabus. Each certificate is aimed at a different level of knowledge and skill, starting with E Certificate for beginners going all the way up to A Certificate.

The aim of these Certificates is to ensure that our riders have a standard level of horse care and riding ability, quoting two of the three main lines from our Mission Statement:

- To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all approved types of sport connected with horses and riding
- To provide instruction in horsemanship and riding and to instil in the members' the proper care of their animals.

E Certificate (Optional) – aimed at 7 years and under

D Certificate (Compulsory) – aimed at 7 years +

D Star Certificate (Compulsory) – Aimed at 9 years + (must have D Certificate)

C Certificate (Compulsory) – Aimed at 12 years +, must have D Star Certificate (this certificate must be obtained in order to compete at any Zone or State event once the rider reaches 14 years of age and has been a PC member for more than 2 years)

C Star Certificate – Aimed at 14 years +, must have C Certificate

K Certificate – Aimed at 14 years, must have C Certificate

B Certificate – Minimum Age: 15/16 years, must have C\* or K certificates

A Certificate – Minimum Age: 17 years, must have C\* or K certificates

H Certificate – Minimum Age: 17 years, no pre-requisites required

Certificate booklets can be purchased from the MyPonyClub Store online. There is often a cost to do the accreditation day, depending on the certificate type.

If you would like any further information on certificates, please do not hesitate to contact me.

## **MPPC Methods of Communication:**

We have 3 main methods of communication where we aim to ensure you are kept up to date with all things club related:

Email: [morningtonpeninsulapc@gmail.com](mailto:morningtonpeninsulapc@gmail.com)

Facebook: MPPC Members Only – simply request membership to this page and it will be approved to all members.

Operoo

I can also be contact by text or call on 0422159795

## **Where we sit in the world of Pony Club:**

Pony Club Australia is the National Entity

Pony Club Victoria is the State Entity

Southern Metro Zone (SMZ) is our area within the state and is the local governing body we work with. The committee of SMZ is made up of members from the Pony Clubs that fall within the zone, all of whom are volunteers. SMZ hold bi-monthly meetings and we are requested to provide 2 representatives at each meeting.

## **JustGo Membership Portal**

All New Membership applications and Annual Renewals are now completed via the below link.

[Login - JustGo](#)

Simply log in if you are already in the system or “Sign Up” if you are new to the system. All information for rider membership must be entered under the rider’s details.

## **Club Enhancement Levy**

Our club thrives on our parent/volunteer helpers, at rallies, events and our working bees. We hold a minimum of 2 working bees per year prior to our major Horse Trial events.

In 2019, after much committee discussion and deliberation, it was decided to introduce a Club Enhancement Levy of \$250 to all member families. This levy is fully refundable or eligible for roll-over to the following membership year upon the completion of 12 hours of volunteer time at events and working bees.

We hold many events throughout the PC year, some bigger events than others. The big events we hold are the MPPC 2 Day Horse Trials, Mini Mornington Horse Trials and our Xmas Tree Farm BBQ fundraising event held over 4 weekends prior to Xmas each year. For these events to be successful for our club, we need volunteers. In the past, we have struggled to motivate members to volunteer their time; some members go above and beyond, others are reluctant to help, yet we are all members of the same club.

**Xmas Tree Farm BBQ** – this is one of our biggest fundraising events and all funds from this highly successful event are currently going towards building much needed sand arenas on our grounds. The BBQ is held over 3-4 weekends prior to Xmas – IT IS A REQUIREMENT OF ALL FAMILIES TO COMMIT

TO 1 SHIFT OVER THIS PERIOD as part of the Levy. A roster will be available for sign-up from July and any family not signed up to a shift will be allocated one.

Volunteer help at rally days is an expectation of membership and is not redeemable as part of the levy hours.

At all rallies, we require help with set-up & pack-up of equipment (show jumping/dressage arenas), canteen, cleaning bathrooms, and any other odd jobs required on the day. Your participation is both greatly appreciated and required for our club to continue to function at a high level. A Rally Roster is published prior to rally each month and if you are rostered on but cannot fulfil your duty, you are required to find a replacement for that job.

### **Finally:**

We are here to help. We are all volunteers and all learning things along the way, so if we don't know an answer, we will be sure to find out and get back to you. This is your club so what you get out of this club is dependent upon what you are willing to put into it. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please do not hesitate to contact any one of our committee members.

Once again, WELCOME!

Kirsty - DC

## **Working With Children Card (WWCC)**

Did you know it is a requirement of PCAV for all club supporters (parents/guardians of riders) to have a valid WWCC? We as a club have been asked to ensure parents/guardians coming along to rallies on a regular basis (more than 3 rallies per year) have obtained either a volunteer-based WWCC or hold a valid WWCC for employment.

Categories of members regularly attending rallies and club functions over a 12-month period who are required to have a WWCC are as follows:

- An adult riding club member.
- An honorary life member who regularly attends rallies and club activities.
- An adult supporter, including the following:
  - Both parents of riders who regularly attending rallies.
  - A single parent who regularly attends rallies.
  - A non-parent guardian of a child either temporary or otherwise who regularly attends rallies.
- Visiting members and adult supporting members as defined above from clubs other than the host club.
- A non-member who does not fall within the categories listed above who regularly attends rallies and club activities.

If you don't have a WWCC, it is free and easily applied for online at <http://www.justice.vic.gov.au> Follow the links through to WWCC for volunteers. Please make sure you nominate Mornington Peninsula Pony Club as one of the organisations you attend. The state government can undertake



audits at individual clubs, so if you need to amend your registration and add our club to the list of organisations you need the WWCC for, please do so.

If you already have a WWCC, can I please ask you to log on to the Just Go portal and update the club supporter section with your WWCC details. If you have any issues with this, please let me know and I will be happy to assist.

For any questions regarding the WWCC, please do not hesitate to contact me or refer to the PCAV Website:

<http://www.ponyclubvic.org>

Many thanks,  
Kirsty – DC

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