

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### NSW Takes Back the Sporting Trophy after 5 Years

Over 150 riders from NSW and QLD took part in the Pony Club NSW State Sporting, Campdraft & Team Penning Championships held from the 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April at Dorrigo Showground on the state's mid-north Coast. For the first time since 2012, NSW riders were able to bring home the Champion State Award after QLD had held onto the Sporting title for the last 5 years.

Competitors and their families from all over NSW and interstate from QLD were welcomed to the small town of Dorrigo by Zone 9 and the North Dorrigo Pony Club, with Championship Dinners held on the Saturday and Sunday nights. The grounds were carefully prepared with extra yards and equipment brought in from around the region.

The State Sporting Championships commenced at 8:30am on Saturday morning with the best Sporting riders from all over NSW and QLD taking part in seven races including the Flag, Barrel and Bending Races.



Darcy Heffernan from Toronto Pony Club represented Zone 24 in the State Sporting Championships, placing 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the 15 & under 17 years Age group. Photo: Kristy Bullen



Anastasia Martin from Merriwa Pony Club in Zone 7 claimed the Associate Age Champion Award riding Palmers Comedy. Photo: Kristy Bullen

In the Under 11 years competition Nathan Lonsdale from Salt Ash Pony Club in Zone 25 was awarded the Age Champion and Alena Duncan from Cobargo in Zone 14 was just 1 point behind to receive the Reserve Champion title. Age Champion for the 11 & Under 13 years went to Madison Shaw representing Queensland, followed by Zali Duncan from Cobargo in the Reserve place. Queensland competitor Beau Horn was the 13 & Under 15 years Age Champion and Kelsey Kennedy from Willawarrin in Zone 9 claimed the Reserve Championship. The Queenslanders continued their winning streak with Alyssa Sinclair taking out the 15 & Under 17 years Age Champion award, with Hannah Dunn from Walcha in Zone 15 close behind in the Reserve Champion position. In the Associate division Anastasia Martin from Merriwa in Zone 7 was hard to beat,

winning the Age Champion award, followed by Kate Patch from Queensland who is no stranger to the Champion position, having held the number 1 title in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

2012 was the last time NSW beat QLD in the State Sporting Championships and in 2018 the drought has been broken as NSW was named the Champion State with riders Anastasia Martin from Merriwa, Lola Barwick from Gravesend, Alena Duncan from Cobargo and Nathan Lonsdale from Salt Ash were awarded the highest point scoring riders from the same State.

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Clancy Martin from Merriwa Pony Club in Zone 7 pictured during the State Campdrafting events. Photo: Kristy Bullen.

The winning Zone was awarded to Zone 25 with riders Nathan Lonsdale from Salt Ash along with Anthony Shultz, Amy Shultz and Jodie Harris all from Gloucester being awarded the highest point scoring riders from the same zone.

The State Campdraft Championships kicked off on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>, with just under 100 competitors taking part. The event was judged by Steven Blackadder, with riders fortunate to have two runs in the campdraft, doubling their chances to get a great score.

Cattle were brought in from neighbouring farms around the area and were a fantastic standard for the competition according to Zone 26 competitor Ginger Soames who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> overall in the 15 & Under 17 years Campdrafting event.

“It’s not very often we go to an event where the cattle are so well suited to the ability of each age group and as a competitor it was great to see each rider respectful of the cattle” Ginger said.

In the Under 13 years age group, Anthony Shultz from Gloucester in Zone 25 was announced as the Age Champion just ahead of Emily Mills from Moree in Zone 8 who scored equal points with Anthony, but was determined the Reserve Champion on a countback of scores from the judge. Georgia Osmond from Dungog in Zone 25 was well out in front of competitors in her age group, claiming the 13 & Under 15 Years Age Champion while Amelia Stubbs from Hastings District in Zone 9 was awarded the Reserve Champion. The 15 & Under 17 Years Age Champion was awarded to Jacqueline Coombes from Bingara in Zone 8 who scored the highest points in the whole Championship, while Charlotte Maslen from Gloucester in Zone 25 was awarded the Reserve Champion title. The Associate division was very close with Matthew Ireland from Walcha in Zone 13 landing the top spot of Age Champion, closely followed by Anastasia Martin from Merriwa in Zone 7 in the Reserve Champion position.

NSW again claimed the Champion State Award with high point scoring riders Anthony Shultz from Gloucester, Emily Mills from Moree, Jacqueline Coombes from Bingara and Matthew Ireland from Walcha earning the champion State title. Zone 25 was also once again the Champion Zone with Georgia Osmond from Dungog along with Anthony Shultz, Charlotte Maslen and Emma Johnston all from Gloucester Pony Club being the highest scoring riders from the same zone.

The State Team Penning Championship was the final event to be held with 16 Junior Teams competing for the Champion Team Award. Teams consisted of 3 riders whose aim is to separate three specifically identified cattle from a herd of 30, and put them into a pen at the opposite end of the arena within two minutes.

The Team Penning is always fun to watch and this year did not disappoint with very close scores among the top teams. Judge De Hilton was very impressed with the behaviour of the young competitors; “those kids were improving throughout the day. Excellent manners and sportsmanship noted from all the teams”.

The Champion Junior Team was awarded to Zone 22 with riders Taleha Urszulak, Abbey James and Ella-Lin MacMillan all from Woonona Pony Club who were able to pen 3 beasts in a very quick time of 76.75 seconds. With very



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little time separating them, the hometown team of Tia Beaumont, Emma Williams and Abby Raymond from North Dorrigo in Zone 9 were just behind in the Reserve Champion position, penning 3 beasts in 87 seconds.

In third position was the Celtic Rustlers from Glen Innes Pony Club in Zone 13, followed by the Gloucester Cousins from Zone 25 in fourth place and the Queensland Zone 21 Team in fifth place.

A very big thank you to major sponsors Horseland and Official Feed Partner HYGAIN who provided exceptional prizes to all our Age and Team Champions. Recognition must go to North Dorrigo Pony Club and the Pony Club NSW Organising Committee who delivered a fantastic Championship.

The State Sporting, Campdraft & Team Penning Championships will be held again in 2019 with applications for suitable venues being welcomed now through the Pony Club NSW Website. The next State Combined Championship for this year is heading to Morisset for the Showjumping & Jumping Equitation Championships being held from the 7<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup> July.

Photos from the Dorrigo State Sporting, Campdraft & Team Penning Championships were captured by Kristy Bullen and are available to view and purchase at [www.misskayellebee.com](http://www.misskayellebee.com)

For more information contact the PCA NSW State Office on (02) 4229 8977. To find a Pony Club near you visit the state website on [www.pcansw.org.au](http://www.pcansw.org.au)

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