

## 2018 MEMBERSHIP

Pony Club NSW membership for 2018 as of November is 11,764 members in total, with 8082 riding members and 3682 non-riding members.

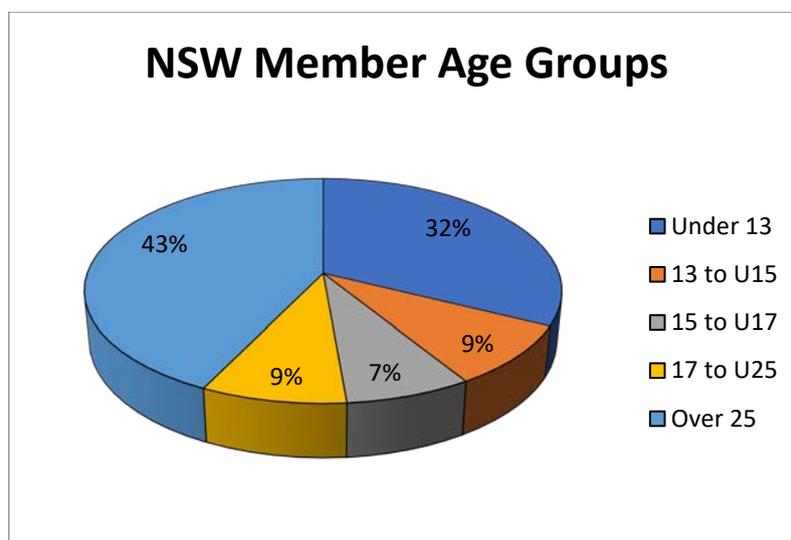
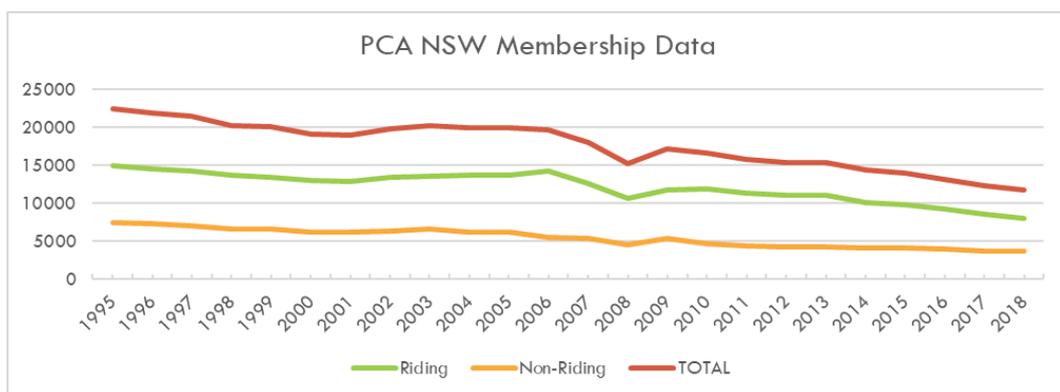
So far this year we have also had 276 members join as the 2nd non-riding member from the same family set at the discounted price of \$20, and 81 come & try members.

At this time of the year in previous years we had the following membership numbers:

2017: 11,989 members

2016: 12,860 members

2015: 13,822 members



## INSURANCE ISSUES

As a result of our daughter Rachel's fall in the UK, I have had cause to examine our travel insurance policy and compare it with PCA's. For the same injury (broken bones benefit) our policy would pay \$400, however the Gow Gates policy pays \$1,400. Given our out of pocket expenses are several thousand dollars, needless to say we claimed on the Gow Gates policy.

This has resulted in me taking a closer look at our current insurance compared to Gow Gates policy, I was sufficiently concerned that I contacted PCA and found that they had been comparing policy coverage as a result of the Nationals being held here next year. Our policy is due for renewal at the end of December and I consider this such a serious issue I have invited Michelle Harper and Mark Bradley to our Council meeting to discuss this in more detail. I consider we need to ensure our members in NSW have at least the same level of coverage as those members in other States.

### **OUTCOMES FROM STATEWIDE SURVEY**

The Statewide survey was a chance for members to have their say about how they want their Pony Club run. I am pleased to say that as a result of the responses, we now have a motion before the Council addressing one of the concerns raised by members. This relates to the question of allowing clubs to determine whether they allow riding members 26 years and over to receive instruction and/or compete at club days. As you may recall, @85% of the respondents to the survey supported this proposition. So, this is the chance for the Council to consider this.

Another result from the survey was a request for standardised rules with other competitions, I have raised this with PCA and been advised they are working on standardised rules for competition at the Nationals (currently States ride under their own rules) with a view towards National rules in the future.

### **NATIONALS MUSICAL RIDE**

During the 2019 Nationals NSW PCA are expected to provide night time entertainment on the first evening of the event. We are planning to conduct two Musical Rides in the indoor arena at SIEC, and by now you will have seen that we have circulated an EOI for members to apply to be part of that team. I have enlisted the support of Commander Don Eyb (Rtd), former Commander of the NSW Mounted Police and instructor for hundreds of Musical Rides including the Sydney Olympics, the NSW Mounted Police ride in the UK for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Man from Snowy River Arena Spectacular and many others. Commander Eyb and I will sort through the applications, select the top 20-22 and they will participate in the rides. With a squad of 20-22 we will have some reserves, but importantly we will ensure that every member who undergoes the training will participate in at least one Musical Ride.

### **NATIONALS TRI NATIONS CUP HORSES**

On speaking with the former Queensland Pony Club President Kev Walsh, I found that their biggest problem when hosting the Nationals last year was obtaining enough loan horses (12 horses plus spares capable of jumping 90cm) for the Tri Nations Cup between China, France and Australia.

After several meetings and much negotiation, staff from Racing NSW and NSW PCA are very close to an agreement on a combined effort to train up enough horses for use in the Nationals Tri Nations Cup. Racing NSW has recently employed Paul Athanasoff, who has represented Australia overseas at the World Championships in showjumping, and together with Scott

Brodie and our own Jane Frankham and other Pony Club instructors we are developing a plan to have enough suitable horses ready by October next year.

Watch our Facebook page and website over the next couple of weeks for more info including the possibility of numerous Showjumping and training clinics for our older, more experienced members!

While we expect that this will be where our Tri Nations Cup horses come from, we are still seeking loan horses so that we have a “backup plan”, just in case.

### **SUCCESSION PLANNING**

After this, our next meeting will be our AGM and we need to consider succession planning. Each year previously we have had at least one change on the State Executive, and in March I believe there will be at least two changes.

Change is an important part of the health of an organisation, it brings fresh blood and new ideas, avoids people becoming burnt out and should not be feared. I was very happy to see more applicants than vacant positions last time, and hope that trend continues. In an ideal world there would be several applicants for each position so that each applicant can be carefully considered and those with the greatest merit chosen.

I can indicate that even if I am elected next year, I expect it will be my last as President, and I would hope that whoever follows me will get at least one years’ experience on the Executive before becoming President. In addition, if requested, I would be prepared to spend at least one more year as Vice President to assist and support the incoming President.

Recently in Melbourne (see below) I was very impressed to meet some members of the Queensland PCA State Executive, they were younger business professionals who brought terrific skills and knowledge to their positions. Like it or not, this type of modern corporate governance is how governments are requiring (via funding) State Sporting Organisations to go, so let’s make sure we encourage all those with the appropriate experience and skill sets to put their hands up. This is not to say we don’t need those members with a long and deep knowledge of Pony Club, we certainly do, but we also need some of those modern professional skills too.

### **DIGITAL MARKETING STRATEGY**

I recently travelled to Melbourne for a couple of days to participate in a program run by the Australian Sport Commission. The course was to assist National Sporting Organisations to develop a Digital Marketing Strategy for their sport (PCA was one of several including softball, archery, motorcross etc). So PCA invited participants from the State and Territory bodies to be involved. This culminated in PCA producing their own Digital Marketing Strategy which is being reviewed by their Board prior to release, to show how we will use the digital world to assist in managing and growing our organisations. I am told it will be released shortly.

I have become aware that funding is now being tied to these types of strategies and governance compliance, and in the near future I believe that a failure to have such plans may

result in lose of funding for PCA NSW. As I mentioned in my report earlier this year, in a recent survey PCA NSW was towards the top in all categories of all Tier Two State Sporting Organisations surveyed, except for governance where we came last. This is a clearly foreseeable threat to our organisation and we will need to do some work on this in the very near future.

#### **CHANGE IN OFFICE STAFF**

While I am very happy to welcome our newest staff member Rachel, I am much saddened as she has come to fill the vacancy left by Leanna leaving to live in the USA.

Rachel was chosen at interview from an initial pool of 20 quality applicants, as well as being an outstanding applicant on her professional merits, she is also a former member of PCA NSW and has competed in many State Events and State Camps. She has been with us for a couple of weeks now and is fitting in well.

Leanna leaves a big hole to fill, as you may know she has worked tirelessly to ensure the running of our State Events, State Camp, as well as her other marketing and sponsorship duties.

She was a wonderful support to me, able to help me convert ideas into technical solutions. Without Leanna we would not have our recent technological improvements such as TeamApp, and she spent many hours on creating and running our State-wide survey using Survey Monkey. I am sure that she will go onto bigger and better things in the USA, and she has promised to keep in touch. We are very grateful for all she has done and wish her all the best.

Finally, a very big thank you to Kerren, Teena and Jane for all their help and support. Quite simply without them and their efforts, there would be no NSW PCA. All your hard work is very much appreciated.

Regards Wayne Pernice