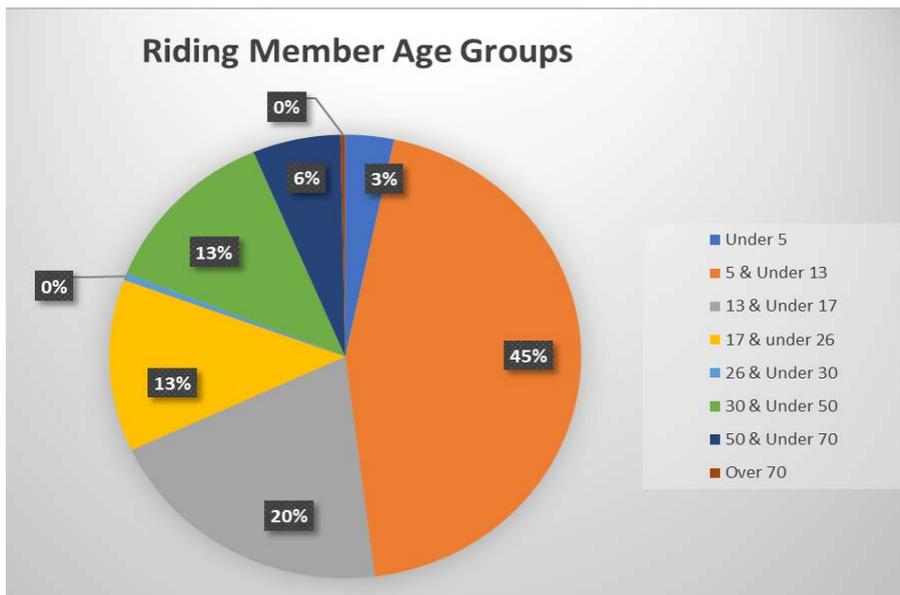
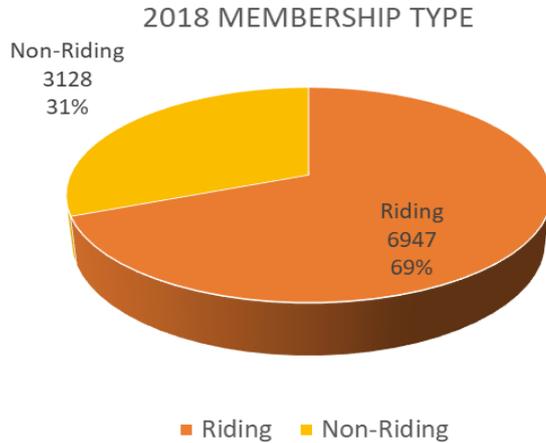


State Presidents Report – July 2018

Membership Statistics

Total memberships as at 17th July are 6,947 riding, 3,128 non-riding a total of 10,075 which is 58 more members than at this time in 2017 of 6,921 riding and 3,096 non-riding a total of 10,017. This however includes some memberships that have not been paid by clubs as this information is from the new database and will include MyPonyClub entries by clubs included in the outstanding amount above.

While it is great to see this information in the statistics it is not being reflected in our income due to the large amount outstanding from MyPonyClub invoices.



Disputes and Mediation

A more proactive approach by the State Executive has reduced the cost relating to solicitors down to zero however this does not consider the numerous hours that have been spent by Kerren in the office, Sally Dowling who recently chaired a Tribunal Panel, members of the State Executive how have been involved in mediation and/or Tribunal Panels and the numerous hours I spend answering emails and phone call queries.

I would like to thank Sally Dowling for her recent role as chair of our Pony Club disciplinary tribunal. Unfortunately, the matter was unable to be mediated and the tribunal was convened. Sally is a very senior Crown Prosecutor for the NSW ODPP, and as a barrister is a Senior Counsel (formerly known as a Q.C.). We were very fortunate to have such an experienced legal mind on the tribunal. All parties were notified of the outcome of the Tribunal Panel.

Clubs and Zones need to continue to be proactive and manage complaints before they get out of hand and further education for committees is crucial in this process. Anyone can access the free resources and online courses available through Play by the Rules <https://www.playbytherules.net.au>

Pony Club Australia Annual General Meeting

On 25th/26th May, Gary, Sarah and I attended the Pony Club Australia Annual General Meeting. I am pleased to report that the relationship between the various State and Territory bodies and the National body is much improved. This can only be to the benefit of all the children in Pony Club and we need to ensure we continue working on this important relationship.

There were significant changes to the National Board. Carole Patterson (formerly the Chair of PCA) is no longer on the Board, and Michelle Harper has been appointed as the new Chair. I would like to thank Carole for the many, many years of service she has provided to Pony Club in Australia, she will be sorely missed. I am looking forward to working with the new Chair, and the whole PCA Board.

Two NSW members were also elected to the National Board, Marylou Hodges from Zone (20) and Mark Bradley from Zone (24). While they do not “represent” NSW as such, it is very good to have them there to provide some perspective from the NSW point of view. Congratulations to them both.

The Pony Club Australia Awards were presented during this weekend congratulations to all those who were selected as finalist from NSW:

Best achievement by a rider 12 years and under,

Zali Duncan, Cobargo Pony Club

Sophie Grainger, Bribbaree Pony Club

Lilly Munce, Casino Pony Club

International Representation

I would like to congratulate all over NSW riders who have been selected to travel overseas to compete in Pony Club competition.

China Pony Club Championships – William Wood, Armidale,

Pony Club UK Polocrosse Championships Junior Team – Rachel Pernice, Glenorie, Connor Richardson, Londonderry, Mat North of The Vines - Team Manager

International Mounted Games UK – Emily Conn, The Vines

France Generali World Club Championship – Jessica Towns, Gravesend

Club visit iHorse, Wuhan, China – Lara Hamblin, Warren

Tetrathlon Team UK – Janet Hamblin, Warren - Team Manager

Unfortunately, while our daughter Rachel was in the UK on the Polocrosse tour I received the 3am phone call every parent dreads. Rachel's horse fell during the competition and she was taken to hospital unconscious, with a broken foot, ankle and collar bone.

Fortunately, she will be fine, but it gave me the opportunity to experience first-hand how well Pony Club responds to such a situation. I can say without hesitation that everything that a parent would want done, was done, and done promptly. The team managers Matt and Jo were excellent and looked after Rachel as if she was their own child. I was overwhelmed by the response from Catherine Ainsworth, I can say without hesitation that she was absolutely brilliant, working the phone night and day to ensure everything was done, covered and we as parents were kept informed. This should be very comforting to all our parents who have children overseas on Pony Club trips, in the event that something unfortunate does happen. As for insurance, the National PCA insurance covers the medical treatment overseas, and our NSW PCA Travel Insurance covers the medical treatment here.

Racing NSW MOU

I have been asked repeatedly by members where the proposal from Racing NSW Racehorse Rehabilitation Trust is up to. While there has not been unanimous support for the proposal, Scott Brodie, Karen Day and I are still working on it with a view to putting it before the Council to vote on, possibly as early November. In addition to the matters I previously mentioned, a new thing we are working on is the prospect of Racing NSW providing an avenue for our older children who are interested in a possible career in the racing industry.

Milestones

I would like to mention the tremendous milestone achieved by Jenny Frankum, who achieved 50 years membership in Pony Club. I was interstate and unable to attend the function at Cobbitty Pony Club, however our State Treasurer, Peter Petherbridge, was present and by all accounts it was a wonderful recognition of what Jenny has contributed to Pony Club. I cannot think of any person who has made a greater contribution to Pony Club in NSW, and on behalf of all our members I thank Jenny.

Survey Results

There were some very interesting results from our recent email survey which was sent to all members and posted on our Facebook page, and I would like to thank all those people who took the time to respond. We have published the graphs showing the final results on our website and Facebook page.

We had nearly 1600 responses, which was a terrific result. With all the comments made, the final document was 87 pages, and I sat down and read each and every one. The two main points seemed to be;

RULES

68.76% of respondents thought that there were too many rules in Pony Club. 1027 comments were made in response to the Question "Are there any general comments you wish to make about Pony Club rules?"

77.04% of respondents thought that Pony Club should borrow rules from other equestrian associations to ensure consistency.

In response to those points, I can advise that Pony Club Australia have the National Coaching Committee looking at National rules for competition at the National Event. This is an obvious place to start, last year I saw competitors from different States racing next to each other with different gear, as they currently compete under their own State rules.

Once that is done, I suspect they will look at National rules for Pony Club across Australia. As long as there remains sufficient flexibility to make local rules to address specific local issues then I think it may be a good idea, and worth exploring.

RIDERS OVER 26YO

84.84% of respondents thought that individual clubs should determine whether adults over 26 should be allowed to ride, receive instruction and compete. One recurring theme was the desire for families to be able to ride together. A couple of those comments which struck me;

“If pony club would allow over 25years riders I would be able to ride with my daughter at Pony club, but since there is no over 25 years riders I would prefer my child to do a riding club, so I can ride too.”

“Pony club does not allow open riders. ARC allows children. The solution seems pretty obvious.”

As far as allowing clubs to decide whether to allow riders over 26yo to receive instruction and compete, I am aware that one Zone has already drafted a motion to that effect, and I expect it will come before the Council at the November meeting. I would urge all our Councillors to discuss this at their Zone meetings and consider it fully. If the motion is successful we want to make sure we have tried our best to consider and address all the possible pros and cons before it comes in.

There were several other themes, such as paid instructors, using more than one horse and Pony Club culture, so there is plenty of work ahead for us in determining what, if anything, needs to be done in that regard.

Governance

It is important that we are mindful of the need to consider our succession planning. Peter Petherbridge has advised that he will not accept a nomination for next year, and there will be at least one other person stepping down from the Executive.

So it is important that we encourage appropriately qualified people to nominate. Our last AGM was the first for a while where we had more nominees than positions, which is very positive and healthy for our organisation.

I have been asked a number of times about a motion which was submitted and passed in 2014 as below:

C53/14 No person may serve on the State Executive for a period of more than eight (8) consecutive years.

Below are the details of each current State Executive member:

Name	Position	Term Commenced	Executive Meetings attended 2017	Executive Meetings attended 2018
Wayne Pernice	President	2017	3	2
Julie Morgan	Vice President	2016	4	2
Gary Hamer	Vice President - Council Representative	Council – 2017 VP – 2018	3	2
Peter Petherbridge	Treasurer	2014	4	2

Jenny Frankum	Chairman of Chief Instructors	1988	4	1
Elaine Caswell	ZCI Member to Executive	2007	4	1
Kriss Wood	Council Representative	2015	4	2
Geoff Adams	Council Representative	2018	N/A	1

Thanks

Big thanks as usual to all the staff in the office who work tirelessly to make sure Pony Club runs well, Kerren Britton, Leanna Haines, Teena Murdoch and Jane Frankum