

## **Presidents report to Council – November 2019**

Welcome all to the November meeting our last for 2019. The last few of weeks have been a worrying time for many of our members with all the bush fires around and the devastation that it has caused. I have personally not heard anything specific from any of our members or pony club grounds but please know that we are thinking of everyone that is within the bushfire affected areas. If Pony club NSW can do anything at all to help anyone please do not hesitate to ring me or the office to ask.

The Executive, Office and many others have been extremely busy since the last meeting with all the of the final preparations for the National Championships taking place. The Nationals was a great event and although it was a huge undertaking for all involved, it ran very smoothly. Our teams in every discipline were very competitive with the results showing how well they performed. I will not list all the results as they are available on the Pony Club NSW website, however NSW was the overall winning state but only by a very small margin. I congratulate all our riders as they all rode extremely well and competed with good sportsmanship and great team spirit supporting and helping one another at all times, which was great to see. The opening ceremony was wonderful, and it was magic to see our riders combined with the Mounted Police doing the musical ride. Thanks to Mr Wayne Pernice, Former Commander Don Eyb, S/Sgt Kylie Riddell and the NSW Mounted Police team for the time they put in to make this happen.

Overall there are many people to thank for all the work that went in beforehand and during the event. I would especially like to thank Julie Morgan for all of the time and effort she put into organizing venues, budgets, schools for the riders and more. The organising committee has worked tirelessly over a period of 18 months, a job well done. I would like to thank Kerren, Rachel and Teena for all the work in the Office both prior to and at the event, they did a mammoth job. A big thank you to Carole our Chief Scorer. This was a very big task for one person so well done Carole. Thank you to the Technical Delegate's at the event who lent their expertise to the smooth running of their respective disciplines. Jane Frankum assisted by Peter Petherbridge -Showjumping; Sarah Venamore – dressage; Ian Menzies assisted by Sarah Woodhouse – Eventing; Fiona Pannell – Tetrathlon; Shiralee Adams - Formal Gymkhana; Maureen Purdie -Mounted Games and Anne Olsen for her help with the Quiz. Thanks to our Showjumping course builder John Vallance and Darryl Burgess our cross-country builder for building world class courses for the championships. If I have forgotten anyone I apologise.

Lastly, I would like to thank our team mangers for looking after our teams - all riders were at their events on time and presented beautifully, these ex associates of our organization did a great job. And a great big thanks to all the parents who worked helped all week as without all this help the whole event would not have happened. The whole event ran well because of the great team effort from everyone concerned.

As you will see from the treasurer's report, the event did run with a small profit which was a great relief to all concerned as last time we held the National Championships in 2009 we encountered a very large loss. So well done to the careful monitoring by Julie, Carole and the rest of the organising committee for keeping a close watch on what all the costs were going

to be. This was helped also of course by the support of Pony Club Australia, Thoroughbred Industry Careers, PETStock, Arena Saddles, CEVA Animal Health, Aussie Blue Heeler Products, Randwick Equine Centre, Gow Gates Insurance Brokers, NEGS Armidale, Ranvet, and many other supporters.

**Disputes and Mediation**

We still seem to be receiving complaints which are always adult related. Adult members need to try and work together. Complaints take up a lot of time and many could be sorted before coming to state if people would talk to one another and sort out their differences in a calm and negotiable way. Are we not all there for our children? I know everyone does not like everyone else - that is human nature but surely, we are all mature enough as adults to treat one another with respect and dignity. Please try harder to take workload off our executive who are all volunteers and our office staff who work hard and are always there to help but also have other work they have to do to run, grow and develop the Association.

**Membership Statistics**

Pony Club NSW membership for 2019 as of November 21<sup>st</sup> is:

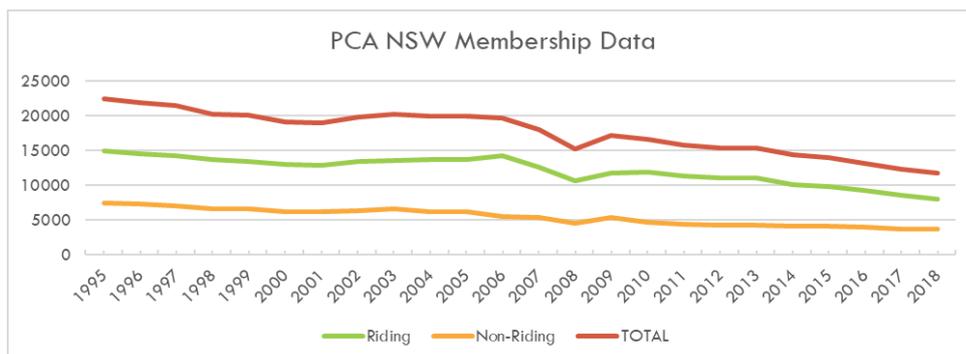


So far this year we have had **416** members join as the 2<sup>nd</sup> non-riding member from the same family set at the discounted price of \$20 (**up from 272 last year**), and **113** come & try members.

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

- 2018: 11,470 members
- 2017: 11,989 members
- 2016: 12,860 members

Membership numbers were up for the first quarter compared to 2018 and are still looking positive in the forth quarter of 2019.



The Association needs to be mindful of increasing costs for the Association but must also cover our costs, membership fees to Pony Club Australia will increase along with cost of living expenses and it will be a juggling act to keep fees as low as possible for our members.

### **Work Health & Safety Association**

While Safety Checklist forms have stopped the contacted Zone Committee members on the 28/5/19 didn't result in many extra outstanding, with only two zones having 100% submissions (Zones 14 & 23) and another two Zone 12 and 25 with only one club each missing.

On a positive note we have already received 3 checklists for 2020 and most of the clubs who contact the office in regard to special events are now being proactive and confirming that they have completed risk assessments for the activities.

As per my summary of the Coronial Inquest emailed to all 25 October, I recommend that we continue proactive in our approach to WH&S and where possible implement my recommendations. Some changes were implemented for the Nationals which will make this easier for State Championships.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy Christmas

Dianne Cullen OAM  
State President