

31st January 2022

PONY CLUB ASSOCIATION NEW SOUTH WALES

REPORT FOR THE PCANSW STATE EXECUTIVE AND ZONE CHIEF INSTRUCTORS COMMITTEE

INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Hello and thank you for reading this. My name is Sarah Woodhouse, and I am currently the Chair of the Zone Chief Instructors Committee of Pony Club Australia New South Wales. I would be honoured if the remainder of the ZCI Committee would endorse me to continue in this role for 2022 into 2023. If I am unsuccessful in this, I would like to continue to serve the Association in a role within the Executive Committee.

I did think that 2021 would be a better year than 2020. I was sure like many of us that Covid-19 could not continue to disrupt our lives, families, and communities. I was wrong, the last two years have been nerve wracking. It has been hard to remain as positive about our sport at this time as I would like to be however, we have survived, we will continue to survive but we need to remember that our volunteer Instructors are critical to our success. In fact, all our volunteers, parents, riders, local governments, and support networks need us to remain in touch, communicate and keep holding the activities that our members are wanting to come to. Supporting all of us are the key members of staff that run our association head office. This past three months has seen some significant changes in staff, and I would like to thank Mrs. Kerren Britten for her service to us all for over twelve (12) years. There have been so many changes to how we are all expected to operate but her love, commitment and work ethic for our Association could not be doubted. Thank you Kerren and we wish you all the very best in your future endeavours.

I also must thank the current executive, especially Ms. Fiona Pennell, I would not have been able to do the job without her help, support, and integrity. We work well together, and we both want pony club to thrive. Mrs. Belinda Tinks has been outstanding as State Treasurer, which you will see from her reports and Mrs. Clare Martin has held us together with her quiet but constant support. Thank you.

PCANSW – WHAT WE DO AND WOULD LIKE TO DO

Rally Days, these are the start of every single member's introduction to Pony Club here in NSW. They should be supported, promoted and we need our instructors and ZCI's to make sure they happen. Pony Club is a learning environment, it has been the starting point for all our past, present, and future Olympians. It is the past, present, and future of thousands of riders across our State and Country. We aim to provide a safe and secure learning environment that brings joy and skills to our members, their families and most importantly the horses.

As a group of volunteers anyone working for their local club or in a zone or state position has a large amount of their free time taken up with "pony club". Being part of this association is rewarding, it can also be exhausting and exhilarating (often at the same time). I would like to say I understand the commitment, the time it takes, and the long hot days spent in a paddock or arena, watching, working, and supporting our clubs.

I will continue to work for Pony Club and its improvement as much as I can, from day-to-day organization to speaking and supporting all the NSW current and future instructors' whatever level they may be. This may be in person, on the phone, at a championship or at State Camp. It doesn't matter my phone number is available to anyone with a question to ask.

Zone and Area Competitions, in 2022 we are hoping to promote the continuing contests and education on a wider basis. We will do this by promoting Area competitions, we would like to ask all Area's to get together to host mega Regional Schools and then move towards Area championships and contests. The Zones across our State are divided into 6 Areas based on their geographic locations. Jane Frankum or the Chair of the ZCI Committee will be able to answer any questions and help with planning your Area Schools... Zones will of course still be able to host their own Regional Schools and competitions, we would like to be able to offer support to those Zones and Clubs that may need a boost to their numbers and helpers...

2021 into 2022. This last year has seen us on the rollercoaster of what we have been able to hold regarding all our club rally days, to Zone events and State Championships. We did manage to hold three State Events, plus earlier this month (2022) State Camp. Statewide the events have been well attended and the applications for some events are growing, our members continue to love coming to Pony Club and I enjoy meeting so many of them across the state at our championship's, Instructors Schools and everywhere in-between.

Disappointment has been the order of business; it was necessary to cancel the remainder of our State Championships for 2021 and with that and the pressures of the previous years has meant that so many of our riders have not been able to compete at levels they may have planned to. It also means that our ZCI's have very limited results in which to make decisions about eligibility and competency, do be patient it's hard for everyone. 2022 – we plan to hold every State Championships and you should plan to hold all your rallies, regional schools, jamboree's, instructor's schools, fun days and so on. If we don't plan to hold them, they won't happen, we

need the everyday activities to happen to make sure our members keep coming back.

NSW Instructors Program “Bronze Silver Gold”

Jane Frankum will update you all on this program, we are so pleased that it had such great support from the members and Instructors. We are currently working hard at having a model ready to review and comment on by the March State Meetings. This new program that will encourage our interested members to come along and instruct at your rally days is going to be a game changer for all. We are all keen to get more instructors into the clubs. It has become one of the hardest parts of some ZCI's roles and we need to support them.

State Championships 2022

So, in early March at Denman Zone 7 we hope to be hosting the State Tetrathlon and the Formal Gymkhana Championship's, then early in April at Coonamble Zone 4 we hope to hold the Campdraft, Team Penning and Sporting Championships. Right at the end of April, we will hold the State One Day Event and Combined Training Championships at Harden Zone 2. In the third week of May, we will hold the State Jumping Equitation Championships at Kootingal Zone 5 near Tamworth. July sees us at Bingara in Zone 8 for the State Show Jumping Championships and by then I think we will have a bit of competition from interstate starting up again which will be good. September is the State Mounted Games and Team Sporting Championships to be held at Bungendore in Zone 16 near Canberra. Then in October up on the Tablelands we will hold the State Showriding Championships at Glenn Innes in Zone 13 and we are hoping that the Dressage Championships will confirm a host Zone very soon, by the time you read this I'm sure we will have one either in Zone 11 or Zone 24.

Regarding the State Championships, it is vital that the Zone Chief Instructors along with the club Senior Instructors help to support riders and their families to get to these competitions. It is such a wonderful opportunity and we have had two years of fractured events and therefore limited chances for the riders across the State and Zones to get together. I believe the more riders we can get to these Championships the stronger Pony Club will become. What better way to encourage Pony Club than to showcase what a varied amount of disciplines we offer.

It will be a busy year ahead for the new office staff and the advisory committee's that do so much to help organize these events. Please can you be patient with all that is going on and if you would like to join an Advisory Committee, please offer your help.

2022 will be better, if I say this often enough it will happen, please remember I am available to all of you for support and what limited advice I may offer! My email is sarah@woodhouse.net and my mobile is 0408805754.

Thank you. Sarah Woodhouse.