



Newsletter Highlights

- Virtual Quiz on Friday 2nd October 2026 Entries Open
- State Camp Applications Closing 30 September
- State Awards Nominations Close 30 September
- State Showjumping Entries Open
- 2026 Thoroughbred Combined Performance Entries open Closing 18 September
- Entries for Club & Rider of the Month Due now



From the President - Clare Martin

Welcome to another month of Pony Club NSW. September is an exciting time for our organisation as we continue to create new opportunities for members while staying true to the values at the heart of Pony Club — horsemanship, education, horse welfare, friendship and the development of young. Last month, Pony Club NSW announced our new partnership with Racing NSW. While this is a new direction for our organisation, the purpose behind it strongly aligns with what Pony

Club has always done — helping young people develop their skills, broaden their knowledge and discover where their involvement with horses may take them. For many members, Pony Club is about much more than competition. Through this partnership, we hope to create additional opportunities for our older members in areas such as horse welfare, retraining and rehoming, equine education, work experience, mentoring and career pathways. It also gives us the opportunity to celebrate the important role Thoroughbreds already play within Pony Club, with many enjoying successful second careers across a wide range of disciplines.

Importantly, these opportunities are about choice. Nothing about the partnership changes the everyday Pony Club experience for our members, Clubs or Zones, and participation in any related programs or activities will remain optional. We are also looking forward to a busy end to the year as we head into our remaining State Championships and events. Planning is well underway for the 2027 Pony Club NSW State Camp, with applications opening this month. State Camp is always a wonderful opportunity for riders to develop their skills, experience our new discipline, learn from quality instructors and make friendships with members from across NSW.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on supporting our members, promoting excellent horsemanship and horse welfare, and providing safe, educational and enjoyable opportunities across NSW.

Thank you to our Clubs, Zones, volunteers, instructors, families and members for your continued support.

Our Sponsors / Supporters





September Events

September 5th - 6th

Zone 14 Regional Equitation School

September 12th

Jumping Equitation Judges School Zone 25

September 15th & 16th

Silver Zoom School

October Events

October 2nd

Pony Club NSW State Virtual Quiz

October 5th

Equimillions Pony Club Working Hunter Class

October 30th - 1st November

2026 State Showjumping and Jumping Equitation Championships



Blue Book Update

The Blue Book is a live document, and we encourage you to use the blue book. Anything that has been updated is in red within the Blue Book. We do still have some sections that are still undergoing review, and we appreciate your patience as we work to finalise these outstanding areas.

Team Sporting is now available and Jumping Equitation has just been added.



Gear Check

page 60 How to Fit and Measure a Spur



Too loose and too low



Upside down and too high

Spur sits parallel to the ground and the end of strap points to outside.
Note: Only the campdraft spur sits lower;



A spur without a rowel is measured from the inside edge of the heel band to the end of the shank. The maximum length permitted is 45mm.



Rowel spurs are measured from the heel band to the pin of the rowel and must not exceed 45mm as per the above diagram

The two parts of a spur:

- The heel band, yoke or branch, which wraps around the heel of the boot.

- The shank or neck, which extends from the back of the heel band and is the area that usually touches the horse.

Club Of the Month



Pambula Pony Club — Small Club, Mighty Community

Pambula Pony Club in Zone 14 may be small, but it has a very big sense of community.

Established in 1988, the Club currently has 16 junior riding members, five adult riding members and five non-riding members. Riders, families, committee members, instructors and volunteers all work together to create a welcoming environment where everyone feels supported and included.

One of the Club's greatest strengths is its multi-generational history.

Some current senior members, volunteers and committee members began as junior riders at Pambula and are now giving back to the next generation. Some members have also grown up through the Club, having first joined as young children. Pambula offers a varied program including showjumping, flatwork, dressage, sporting, mounted games, jumping equitation, obstacle courses, working patterns, campdrafting, horse care and rider safety. The focus is on helping every rider build confidence, try new activities and enjoy learning with their horse. During 2026, the Club successfully hosted its annual Challenge Day in June and a two-day Sporting Jamboree and Gymkhana in August, welcoming riders and families from across Zone 14.

Horse welfare and safety are also a strong part of the Club's program, with members learning about safe horse handling, gear checks, fitness, hydration, rest and recognising when a horse may be tired, lame or unfit to continue.

Like many regional clubs, Pambula relies heavily on volunteers. From running rallies and events to working bees, fundraising, cooking and building equipment, the Club's success comes from people generously giving their time. Their advice to other clubs is simple: make every member and volunteer feel that they belong and that their contribution matters.

Congratulations to Pambula Pony Club, our Club of the Month! 🐾🐾.

Safety Spotlight: Rider Responsibility

The final responsibility, especially for rider attire and saddlery, rests with the rider or their parent/guardian.

Gear check is a compliance check as well as a safety check, but it is the responsibility of riders/parents/guardians to also ensure their gear is safe.

If you need help with gear, please ask. A rider is not permitted to ride with non-compliant gear. If a rider does not pass gear check and does not re-present to gear check with compliant gear (borrowed, mended or from their own spare equipment), they risk elimination from a competition, and/or being unable to ride at a rally or muster.

Grading & Qualification: Dressage

ELIGIBILITY FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Rider — for membership qualifications and rally attendances. Refer section 4 Horse — for ownership qualifications. Refer section 4

PERFORMANCE CARDS

Performance cards are available from the Association. These are required to be taken to ALL

COMPETITIONS and be endorsed by judges or event secretary, when placings are gained. These cards are to be kept up-to-date and will be required by the Zone Chief Instructor and Association for verification of performance for selection of interstate teams. They must also be available to the Zone Chief Instructor with nominations for State Championships. Open performances may be noted for reference only. Copies of performance cards may be requested by the Zone for verification of qualifying scores.

Common Questions: Gear Exemption

Can I use the while I wait for approval?

- No. Riders cannot use the gear in question at any Pony Club event (rally, muster, training or competition) until they receive permission in writing. This permission will be recorded on the member's profile and will need to be presented to gear checkers at all gear checks. Coaches can view the gear in use to assess its safety and welfare before an exemption application is submitted.

Can it be used for any horse I ride?

- No, it is specific to you and the horse you nominate.



This month, we are delighted to introduce nine-year-old Elyse Sidarous from Sun Valley Pony Club in Zone 19 as our September Rider of the Month. Elyse has been riding for two years and enjoys both dressage and showjumping. Her much-loved pony, Oreo, is a 21-year-old, 10.2hh paint Shetland who has played a very special role in building Elyse's confidence and helping her develop as a rider. Together, they have progressed from riding on lead to competing off lead and taking part in Pony Club rallies, gymkhanas and competitions.

Elyse has already enjoyed some wonderful achievements, including first place at the 2026 Zone 19 Dressage Competition at Londonderry, second place at the Cobbitty Dressage and Showjumping Championships and Reserve Champion Off Lead Beginner at Cobbitty. She also represented Pony Club Australia in the 2026 Pony Club International Alliance Virtual Equitation Jumping Competition and was the Highest Point Scorer at Sun Valley Pony Club in 2025.

Oreo is Elyse's all-time favourite pony and, despite his small size, has a very big personality. He loves sporting and showjumping, is developing well in dressage and is always looking for an opportunity to sneak a bite of grass! Elyse says Oreo has taught her that riding is not just about winning ribbons, but about building trust, confidence and a special relationship with your horse.

Elyse is inspired by the riders and instructors at Sun Valley Pony Club, who she says are always supportive and help her become a better rider. When she is not riding, she enjoys dancing, swimming, bike riding, athletics, soccer, futsal, reading and spending time with friends. When she grows up, she would love to be either a dancer or a builder like her dad. Congratulations, Elyse, on being named our September Rider of the Month. We look forward to seeing where your riding journey with Oreo takes you next.

Entries are now open for October Rider of the Month and we would love to hear from you!



2027 Membership Fees

For the 2027 membership year, Pony Club NSW is pleased to confirm that our membership fees will only see a small increase from 2026. Riding and non-riding memberships will increase to \$55, and the Second Non-Riding Family Member membership will increase to \$30.

In 2027 we will continue the Accredited Coach Membership also at a cost of \$30.

The Early Bird Discount of \$5 will again apply for all memberships processed on or before 28th February 2027.

As in previous years, there will be a lock-out period during the first two weeks of November, during which clubs and zones must enter their additional fees for the 2027 membership year into the Just Go system.

Now is the time that Clubs and Zones need to be setting their additional fees to be ready for the lock-out period in November (you do not need to wait for your AGM to set these fees this can be done at any meeting and minutes recorded.)

The below table outlines a breakdown of the fees I have included the 2026 fee breakdown for comparison.

Entity	Category	Amount 2026	2027	Changes for 2027	
Pony Club Australia	Riding Membership	\$39.98	\$41.47	Up \$1.49	
	Insurance	\$46.39	42.90	Down \$3.49	
Total PCA fee		\$86.37	84.37	Down \$3	
Pony Club NSW Membership	Riding OR Non-Riding Membership	\$50	\$55	Up \$5	
Pony Club NSW Discount Fees	Early Bird Special	\$45 up to and including 28th February 2026	\$55 up to and including 28th February 2027	Up \$5	
	Second Non-Riding Family Member	\$25	\$30	Up \$5	
	Accredited Coach	\$25	\$30	Up \$5	

The Overall Increase is just \$3 and it incorporates the merchant fees that were added on top previously

Membership fee examples

2027 Full riding Membership \$136.37 PCA and PC NSW fees – add club and Zone fees 139.37

2027 Full Coach riding \$111.37 PCA and PC NSW fees – add club and Zone fees

Below are the 2026 prices for you to compare

2026 Full riding Membership \$136.37 PCA and PC NSW fees – add club and Zone fees

2026 Full Coach riding \$111.37 PCA and PC NSW fees – add club and Zone fees \$114.37

Early bird discount of \$5 up to and including 28th Feb 2027.

Junior Membership Reminder

All junior riding members must have an associated adult member.

The Pony Club NSW office is continuing to identify junior members who do not have a current adult membership linked to them. Clubs and Zones are reminded that this is a Pony Club NSW membership requirement and should be checked when processing or reviewing memberships.

NOMINATE NOW

Nominations close 30 September 2026!

2026 PONY CLUB NSW STATE AWARDS

Recognising the people and Clubs who go above and beyond to make Pony Club such an incredible community.

- JUNIOR SERVICE AWARD**
Recognising junior members (15-under 25) for practical assistance and outstanding service to their Club.
- KEITH LOWE ASSOCIATE AWARD**
Recognising Associate members (25-under 35) for practical assistance and outstanding service to their Club.
- VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**
Recognising volunteers whose time, hard work and commitment have significantly supported their Club and/or Zone.
- CLUB OF THE YEAR**
Recognising an outstanding Club that shows strong leadership, development, innovation and community appeal.

FANTASTIC PRIZE PACKS ON OFFER!
Including magazine subscriptions, merch, vouchers, tack and even a **JUMP SET** for the Club of the Year!

NOMINATE TODAY! Help us celebrate the amazing people and Clubs in Pony Club NSW.
NOMINATE HERE <https://ponyclubnsw.org.au/forms/2026-pony-club-nsw-state-award-nominations/>

♥ Your nomination could make their contribution unforgettable! ♥

STATE CAMP

Applications are now open!

10 - 14 JANUARY 2027
SYDNEY INTERNATIONAL EQUESTRIAN CENTRE (SIEC)

APPLICATIONS CLOSE
30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Take your opportunity.
APPLY TODAY!

ENTRIES NOW OPEN

2026 Pony Club NSW Thoroughbred Combined Performance Championships
Held as part of Equimillion 2026

Competition Levels
Sils - 60cm
Cup - 80cm

Championship Stages
1. Presentation & Turnout
2. Flatwork & Show Riding
3. Jumping Performance / Jumping Equitation Style

Entries Via Global >

Celebrate the versatility of the Thoroughbred at Equimillion 2026

VOLUNTEER WITH US

Equimillion 2026

Calling all horse lovers!
Be part of something big at Equimillion 2026. Gain behind-the-scenes experience, support an incredible event and enjoy the opportunity to shadow event professionals for valuable work experience.

Great opportunity for event work experience

1-5 October 2026
Sydney International Equestrian Centre
Email volunteers@equimillion.com

APPLY NOW
Whether you can help for one day or several, we'd love to hear from you.

Respect their time
Consider when you call, message or email
Allow reasonable turnaround times
Remember they have lives outside Pony Club too

Know a volunteer who goes above and beyond?
Nominate them for the 2026 Pony Club NSW Volunteer of the Year Award
Nominations close 30 September 2026

NOMINATE NOW
ponyclubnsw.org.au/forms/2026-pony-club-nsw-state-award-nominations/

Strong Clubs are built by volunteers — and strong communities are built on appreciation, kindness and respect.

Get Ready for 2027



Before the end-of-year rush begins, now is the time for Clubs to prepare for their AGM, complete key year-end requirements and plan ahead for a successful 2027.

- ✓ Prepare for your Club AGM meeting
- ✓ Submit your Office Bearer forms
- ✓ Ensure all committee members have a valid WWCC before being added to your committee
- ✓ Club AGM meetings must be held by 31 December
- ✓ Review your Club contacts and committee details
- ✓ Start mapping out your rally and event calendar
- ✓ Check equipment and facility maintenance needs
- ✓ Identify instructor and volunteer requirements
- ✓ Plan how you'll welcome new families
- ✓ Start thinking about grants, fundraising and Club projects



A little preparation now can make your Club's transition into 2027 much easier.

Planning for 2027?

2027 Memberships

Available from 1st November

New members can join for 14 months, enjoy 24/7 insurance, and renewing members can access the early bird discount.

Early Bird Savings for Renewals

Great people. Brighter futures. ♥

- ✓ Available from 1st November
- ✓ 14 months for new members
- ✓ 24/7 insurance
- ✓ Early bird discount for renewals

PONY CLUB People Horses Friendships For Life ♥

Kohnke's Own®

AUSTRALIAN MADE. EQUINE TRUSTED.

Proudly Supporting PONY CLUB NSW

POWER & PROTECT
SUPPORTS PEAK PERFORMANCE AND OPTIMUM MUSCLE RECOVERY IN HORSES

2.5L

HEALTHY HORSES BRIGHTER FUTURES

NUTRITION FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

Horse Welfare



What is a hoof abscess?

Hoof abscesses are one of the most common causes of sudden, severe lameness in the horse. A hoof abscess is an infection in the sensitive tissue of the hoof, which develops into a pocket of purulent material (pus) within the hoof capsule. Whilst the volume of pus is often only quite small, the pressure build-up that it causes within the hoof capsule is extremely painful and often results in significant lameness.

Signs of a hoof abscess can include:

- Severe lameness (often quite sudden in onset), some horses are reluctant to bear any weight at all on the affected leg
- Hoof wall may feel hot to touch
- Generalised swelling at the pastern/fetlock

What causes hoof abscesses?

Infection is caused by one or more of the many types of bacteria which normally live in the environment or on the surface of the foot. Bacteria is introduced most commonly through a hoof crack, by tracking through the white line, by a puncture wound to the sole, or by a nail 'prick' at shoeing. Hoof abscesses seem to be more common in the wetter months as there is a lot more mud around and the expansion and contraction of the hoof in response to moisture can help facilitate abscess formation.



SOCIAL MEDIA COMMUNITY GUIDELINES

Help us keep our online community respectful, welcoming and safe.

DO

- ✓ Be respectful and courteous
- ✓ Keep comments relevant and constructive
- ✓ Communicate appropriately for a youth community
- ✓ Respect privacy and get permission before sharing personal information or images
- ✓ Share accurate information about Pony Club NSW
- ✓ Raise genuine concerns through the proper Pony Club NSW channels

DON'T

- ✗ Post false, misleading or unsubstantiated accusations
- ✗ Make defamatory or reputationally damaging statements
- ✗ Engage in personal attacks, bullying or harassment
- ✗ Use offensive, threatening or inappropriate language
- ✗ Share confidential information or private correspondence
- ✗ Spread misinformation or repeatedly derail discussions
- ✗ Post spam, unrelated promotion or unauthorised advertising
- ✗ Share content that compromises a child's safety, welfare or privacy

Pony Club NSW reserves the right to hide or remove content that breaches these guidelines and, where necessary, restrict or block users who repeatedly or seriously breach them.

Thank you for helping us keep the Pony Club NSW online community respectful, welcoming and safe.

Child Safe Pony Club

Every child has the right to feel safe, respected and supported.



Keep interactions appropriate

Always maintain clear adult-child boundaries.



Respect every young person

No bullying, humiliation, intimidation or inappropriate language.



Use appropriate communication channels

Keep Pony Club communication transparent and related to Pony Club activities.



We all share the responsibility

A child-safe environment belongs to every adult involved.



Never ignore a concern

If something doesn't feel right, speak up and follow the reporting pathway.

Same Team
Brighter Tomorrows

Safe
People
Brighter
Futures

PEOPLE
PONIES
POTENTIAL



Protect • Respect • Speak Up

Good behaviour protects our riders, our volunteers and our Pony Club community.

Horses bring out
the best in people

Rebuilding Confidence After a Fall

A fall can shake a rider's confidence, even when there is no serious injury. For some riders, they get back on and move forward quickly. For others, the fear can linger. They may become more cautious, worry about falling again, avoid certain exercises or suddenly feel nervous doing things they once found easy.

That does not mean they have lost their ability. Confidence after a fall often needs to be rebuilt gradually.

The most helpful thing parents, instructors and volunteers can do is avoid rushing the process. Telling a rider to "just get back on" or "don't be scared" may come from a good place, but fear usually responds better to small, achievable steps. Start with what feels manageable. That might mean grooming the horse, leading, walking in a familiar area, riding with a trusted friend, lowering the jumps or repeating an exercise the rider knows well.

Each positive experience helps rebuild trust — in the horse and in themselves.

What helps?

- Let the rider set the pace.
- Break the challenge into smaller steps.
- Praise bravery and effort, not just performance.
- Avoid comparisons with how they rode before the fall.
- Finish on a positive note whenever possible.
- Give them permission to step back without making it feel like failure.
- Confidence rarely comes back all at once.

It is usually rebuilt through lots of small moments where the rider thinks: "I did that. I was nervous, but I did it."

TRY THIS: THE CONFIDENCE LADDER

Ask the rider to write down five steps from easiest to hardest. For example:

1. Walk around the arena
2. Trot a familiar pattern
3. Canter one circle
4. Ride over poles
5. Jump a small fence

Work through them gradually.

There is no prize for rushing.

The goal is not to get back to where they were as quickly as possible — it is to help them feel safe, capable and confident again.



Learning to Win — and Lose — Well

Competition can teach young riders much more than how to earn a ribbon. Learning how to handle success, disappointment, nerves and setbacks is an important part of growing up — and Pony Club gives young people a valuable opportunity to practise these skills in a supportive environment.

Winning feels great, and riders should be proud of their achievements. But good sportsmanship means learning to celebrate without making others feel less successful. It might be congratulating another rider, thanking officials and volunteers, acknowledging your horse, or recognising the people who helped you get there.

Learning to lose well is just as important.

Not every competition will go to plan. A rail might fall, a movement might be missed, a horse might have an off day or another rider may simply perform better. Disappointment is normal — young riders don't need to pretend they aren't disappointed.

What matters is what happens next.

Instead of focusing only on the placing, we can help riders ask: What went well? What did I learn? What can I work on next time?

Parents, instructors and volunteers play an important role too. When the first question after a class is "Where did you come?", we can unintentionally teach children that the result is the most important part.

Try asking:

"What were you proud of?"

"What did you learn?"

"Did you enjoy it?"

"What would you like to improve next time?"

Success isn't always standing first in the line-up. Sometimes it is riding a better round than last time, managing nerves, supporting a teammate, trying something difficult or showing kindness when someone else succeeds.

**A ribbon tells us what happened in one class on one day.
It doesn't define the rider.**

★ TRY THIS: THE 3-2-1 COMPETITION RESET

After your next rally or competition, instead of starting with the result, ask your rider to name:

3 things that went well

2 things they learned

1 thing they'd like to work on next time

And before you leave, encourage them to congratulate one other rider on something they did well.

Because learning to compete isn't only about learning how to win.

It's learning how to be the kind of rider others are happy to compete alongside.

TRY THIS: THE LEADING & LISTENING EXERCISE

This simple groundwork exercise helps improve communication, personal space and responsiveness before you even get in the saddle.

In a safe enclosed area, lead your horse at the walk and practise:

1. Walk on — your horse should move forward with you without pulling or lagging behind.
2. Halt — stop your own body and ask your horse to stop beside you.
3. Change direction — make smooth turns both ways, keeping your horse attentive to where you are going.
4. Back up — ask for just one or two calm steps backwards.
5. Stand quietly — finish by asking your horse to stand beside you on a relaxed lead.

The aim isn't to drag or push your horse into position. Use clear body language, light cues and release the pressure as soon as they respond.

What are you looking for?
Your horse should gradually become more attentive to you, stay out of your personal space and respond to smaller cues.

If they rush, pull, crowd or become confused, slow the exercise down and make your signals clearer.

Good groundwork should feel like a conversation, not a battle.

Once your horse can do this calmly at home, try adding poles, cones or different pathways to make it more interesting.

**TRY THIS:**

THE LEADING & LISTENING EXERCISE
Riders for Life
CONNECT
LEARN
GROW
TOGETHER

This simple groundwork exercise helps improve communication, personal space and responsiveness before you even get in the saddle.

> Practise at the walk:

1 Walk on

Your horse should move forward with you without pulling or lagging behind.

2 Halt

Stop your own body and ask your horse to stop beside you.

3 Change direction

Make smooth turns both ways, keeping your horse attentive to where you are going.

4 Back up

Ask for just one or two calm steps backwards.

5 Stand quietly

Finish by asking your horse to stand beside you on a relaxed lead.

TOP TIP:
Use clear body language, light cues and release the pressure as soon as they respond.

What are you looking for?
✓ More attention to you
✓ Respect for personal space
✓ Responses to smaller cues

REMEMBER:
If they rush, pull, crowd or become confused, slow the exercise down and make your signals clearer.

Good groundwork should feel like a conversation, not a battle.

Once your horse can do this calmly at home, try adding poles, cones or different pathways to make it more interesting.

Small Steps
Brighter Riders



Horsemanship Starts Before You Get in the Saddle

Good horsemanship is about more than riding well. It starts the moment you walk up to your horse.

How you lead, groom, pick out feet, fit gear and respond to behaviour all matter. The more you know your horse, the easier it is to notice when something feels different. Maybe they are more sensitive when being groomed, reluctant to move forward, standing differently or suddenly reacting to something they normally accept. Sometimes what looks like "naughty" behaviour can actually be discomfort, confusion, fear or simply a sign that something has changed.

Know Your Horse's Normal

Every horse is different, so learn what is normal for yours.

Before you ride, quickly check:

- Their attitude and behaviour
- Legs for heat or swelling
- Feet and shoes
- Any cuts, rubs or sore spots
- How they walk and move
- How they react when being groomed and saddled

These checks only take a minute but can tell you a lot.

Behaviour Is Information

Instead of thinking:

"How do I stop this?"

Try asking:

"Why might my horse be doing this?"

That simple question can make you a better horseperson.

**Try This!**

THE 60-SECOND HORSE CHECK

Before your next ride, spend one minute just observing your horse.

Check their:

**EYES**
Bright and comfortable?

**EARS**
Relaxed or unusually tense?

**BODY**
Standing evenly?

**LEGS**
Any swelling or heat?

**MOVEMENT**
Walking freely?

**BEHAVIOUR**
Normal for this horse?

Then ask yourself: "Is anything different today?"

The better you know your horse, the quicker you will notice when something isn't quite right.

Great riding starts with great horsemanship — from the ground up.

2026 State Championships Save the Date



Entries Open NOW Entries Close: Midnight 4th October 2026

Schedule available on website



Entries Open Now



Schedule Coming Soon Get Ready



Building Better Jumping — One Rider, One Horse and One Good Habit at a Time
Welcome to Raising the Bar, one of Pony Club NSW's seven education pillars. This pillar is all about helping riders develop better jumping skills through good foundations, thoughtful training and a strong understanding of the horse.

Raising the Bar isn't simply about jumping higher.

It is about learning to ride with better rhythm, balance, straightness and control. It is about understanding how to prepare your horse properly, how to ride a line rather than simply aim at a fence, and how to make decisions that build confidence rather than create problems. Most importantly, it is about helping riders and horses improve together.

Throughout Raising the Bar, we will share practical exercises, coaching tips, jumping education, course-riding advice, rider position, poles and grids, Jumping Equitation concepts and ideas that can be used at rallies and at home.

For Riders

It can be tempting to measure progress by the height of the fence. But one of the best things you can do for your jumping is to stop asking "How high can I jump?" and start asking: "How well can I ride this?"

A balanced 60 cm round ridden in rhythm is far more valuable than struggling around a bigger course.

Focus on:

- Maintaining a consistent rhythm
- Riding accurate lines and turns
- Looking where you are going
- Keeping your horse straight
- Developing a secure, balanced position
- Learning to recognise when something went well — and why

The height will come when the foundations are ready.

For Parents

One of the best ways parents can support young jumping riders is to focus on development rather than height or results.

Instead of asking:
"When are you moving up?"

Try:
"What are you working on at the moment?"

A rider who spends time improving their position, rhythm and control is not "going backwards" because they are jumping smaller.

Sometimes dropping the fences and fixing the basics is exactly what allows a rider and horse to move forward safely and confidently.

Celebrate the good round, the better approach, the calm horse and the rider who makes a smart decision — not only the ribbon.

Continued on the next page

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

RAISING THE BAR

EDUCATION.
SKILLS.
CONFIDENCE.
HIGHER TOGETHER.

**Better Riders
Brighter Futures**

TRY THIS:

RHYTHM BEFORE HEIGHT

A simple exercise to build better jumping.

- 1 Set up a ground pole or small cross rail on a straight line.
- 2 Ride towards it several times without changing your pace in the final few strides.
- 3 Repeat, focusing on a consistent rhythm and a straight approach.

Ask yourself:

- ✓ Was my rhythm the same before and after the fence?
- ✓ Was my horse straight?
- ✓ Did I keep looking ahead?

Once you can repeat the same smooth approach consistently, then consider changing the exercise.

Good jumping isn't about getting over the fence somehow. It is about creating a ride you and your horse can confidently repeat.

That is how we Raise the Bar..

Same rhythm in, over and out!

For Instructors

Our instructors have an enormous influence on the jumping habits riders develop. Whenever possible, build the exercise before building the height.

Use poles, cavaletti, grids, related distances and simple courses to teach riders why something works rather than simply telling them what to do.

Encourage riders to recognise rhythm, balance and straightness for themselves.

Ask questions such as:

"What did you feel there?"

"What changed on that approach?"

"Where were you looking?"

"What could you do differently next time?"

The goal is not just to produce a rider who can complete an exercise. It is to develop a rider who understands how to solve a problem.

For Clubs & Zones

Raising the Bar is also an opportunity to bring more jumping education into our rally programs.

Consider including:

- Pole and gridwork sessions
- Jumping Equitation training
- Course-walking education
- Rider position sessions
- Small jumping clinics
- Jumping Equitation competitions
- Instructor development and regional schools
- Sessions explaining distances, lines and course design

Not every jumping session needs to finish with a bigger fence.

Some of the most valuable education can happen over a pole on the ground.

Saddleworld
A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

*More People
Brighter
Futures*

**Thank You
Saddleworld**

SUPPORTING OUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

**Proud Sponsor of
Saddle Cloths for Our
Reserve Champions**

**Your support helps us
recognise and reward our riders.**

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

Partners in a Brighter Equestrian Future

PONY CLUB NSW
RIDE LEARN BELONG

TRY THIS: TRANSITIONS ON A 20-METRE CIRCLE

Ride a 20-metre circle and choose four points around it.

At each point, make a transition:
Walk → Trot → Walk → Trot

Focus on keeping the same circle, maintaining straightness through the transition and asking quietly.

Once that feels smooth, try:
Trot → Canter → Trot

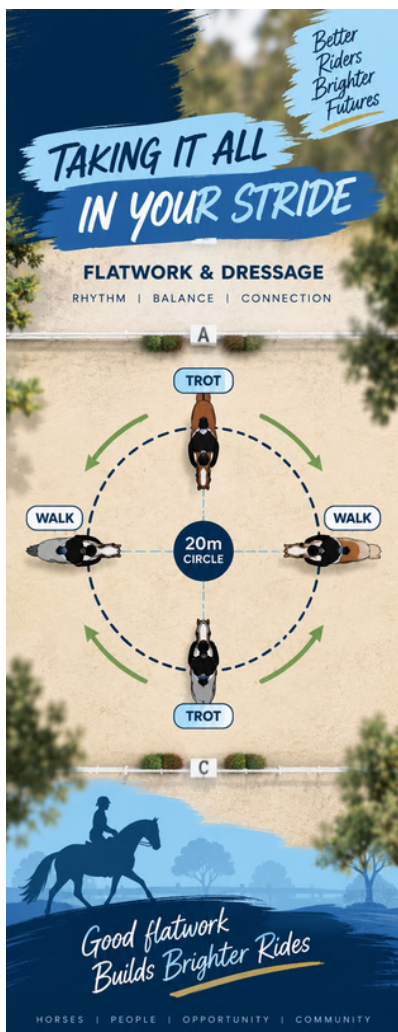
Ask yourself:

Did my horse stay in rhythm?
Did I prepare before the transition?
Did I stay balanced?
The goal is not to make the transition quickly.

The goal is to make it smoothly and clearly.

Good flatwork isn't about looking fancy. It is about creating a horse and rider that move together with balance, rhythm and understanding.

That is how we Take It All in Our Stride.



Better Flatwork Makes Everything Better

Welcome to Taking It All in Your Stride, our education pillar focused on flatwork, dressage and building better movement through good basics.

Flatwork is not just for riders who compete in dressage.

Every rider benefits from a horse that is responsive, balanced, straight and able to move freely. Whether you jump, event, compete in sporting, ride trails or simply enjoy Pony Club rallies, good flatwork helps make every other part of riding easier.

It is where we develop the basics that everything else is built on — rhythm, balance, suppleness, straightness, transitions and communication between horse and rider.

And just like jumping, progress is not about making things harder as quickly as possible. Sometimes the biggest improvements come from doing the simplest exercises better.

For Riders

You do not need to be riding advanced movements to improve your flatwork.

Start by asking:

Is my horse going forward in a steady rhythm?

Can I ride an accurate circle?

Can I make a smooth transition without rushing or pulling?

Can I keep my horse straight?

Before worrying about how your horse looks, focus on how the movement feels.

A horse travelling calmly, rhythmically and in balance is much more important than trying to force a particular outline.

For Parents

Flatwork can sometimes look less exciting from the sidelines, but it is one of the most valuable things a rider can practise.

A lesson spent working on transitions, circles or straightness is not “just riding around”.

Those skills improve control, confidence and communication — and they carry straight into jumping, eventing and every other discipline.

Celebrate the small improvements.

A smoother transition, a more balanced corner or a horse that relaxes into its work can be a big step forward.

For Instructors

Keep flatwork simple, purposeful and achievable.

Rather than riding endless circles, give riders a clear job.

Use cones, markers, poles and arena letters to improve accuracy and keep younger riders engaged.

Ask riders what they can feel:

“Did the rhythm change?”

“Was that transition smoother?”

“Did your horse stay straight?”

“What happened when you softened your hands?”

Helping riders understand what they are feeling develops independent riders, not just riders who follow instructions.

For Clubs & Zones

Flatwork can easily be built into rally programs without needing a full dressage arena.

Try including:

- Transition challenges
- Accuracy exercises using cones
- Pole work on circles and straight lines
- Rider position sessions
- Dressage test practice
- Arena-letter games
- Rhythm and balance exercises
- Sessions on riding corners, circles and centre lines correctly

The aim is to make flatwork useful, understandable and enjoyable.

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

*Develop
Educate
Inspire*

BRONZE INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL HOST YOUR SCHOOL NOW

Does your Zone wish to host a Bronze Instructor School in 2027?

Now is the time to book! Regional schools help make instructor training more accessible for members across NSW.

Build coaching skills in your region
Support your local members
Develop confident & knowledgeable instructors
Suitable for Clubs and Zones
Help grow Pony Club across NSW

Let's bring instructor training to your region!

BOOK YOUR SCHOOL NOW

CONTACT ZCI'S
Jane Frankum
coach@ponyclubnsw.org.au

*Stronger Instructors
Stronger Riders*

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

*Develop
Educate
Inspire*

SILVER INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL HOST YOUR SCHOOL NOW

Does your Zone wish to host a Silver Instructor School in 2027?

Now is the time to book! Regional schools help make instructor training more accessible for members across NSW.

Build coaching skills in your region
Support your local members
Develop confident & knowledgeable instructors
Suitable for Clubs and Zones
Help grow Pony Club across NSW

Let's bring instructor training to your region!

BOOK YOUR SCHOOL NOW

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*Stronger Instructors
Stronger Riders*



🏆 12 NEW JUMPING EQUITATION JUDGES ACCREDITED!

A fantastic result from our recent Jumping Equitation Judges & Pencillers School, with 12 new judges successfully gaining their accreditation! 🎉

Following the Step One Theory session via Zoom, participants completed their practical component at Zone 25, Mt Sugarloaf, putting their knowledge into practice through judging, scoring and pencilling in an arena environment.

Having more accredited Jumping Equitation judges across NSW means more opportunities for Clubs and Zones to run Jumping Equitation competitions — and we would love to see more of these events included on calendars across the State.

Jumping Equitation is a fantastic education tool for our riders. Rather than focusing only on whether the rails stay up or who has the fastest time, it encourages riders to develop rhythm, balance, position, effective aids, accurate lines and a better overall way of riding a jumping course.

These are skills that riders can take straight back into their showjumping, helping them

become more effective, thoughtful and confident riders — and ultimately helping us Raise the Bar of showjumping across Pony Club NSW. 🏡📈

The more accredited judges we have throughout NSW, the easier it becomes for Clubs and Zones to offer these valuable competitions and create more opportunities for our riders to learn and improve.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, our presenters and officials, and Zone 25 for hosting and supporting the school.

🎉 Congratulations to our 12 newly accredited Jumping Equitation Judges!

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

*Develop
Educate
Inspire*

Does your Zone wish to host a REGIONAL SCHOOL in 2027?

Now is the time to book!

*Build
Develop
Inspire*

DRESSAGE **SHOWJUMPING** **JUMPING EQUITATION** **EVENTING**

ZCI's contact
Jane Frankum
coach@ponyclubnsw.org.au

These schools can be in all disciplines – Dressage, Showjumping, Jumping Equitation, Eventing.

*Investing in our people.
Stronger Clubs. Brighter Futures. ♥*

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

*Develop
Educate
Inspire*

INTERESTED IN BRINGING A JUMPING EQUITATION JUDGES & PENCILERS SCHOOL to your area?

*Support
Develop
Grow*

Speak with your ZCI and register your interest.

Your ZCI can then contact Jane Frankum to arrange a school for your Zone.



MOUNTED GAMES & TEAM SPORTING WRAP-UP

Down to the Wire at the 2026 Pony Club NSW State Championships

The 2026 Pony Club NSW State Mounted Games & Team Sporting Championships delivered plenty of speed, skill and excitement at Camden Bicentennial Equestrian Park on 8-9 August — with several State titles coming right down to the wire.

Hosted by Zone 23, the Championships welcomed 17 teams representing Zones 10, 22, 23, 25, 26 and 27. With qualifying times removed for this year's event, the Championships also opened the door for new combinations to experience State-level competition, including a first-time team from Zone 10.

Across two action-packed days, Junior and Associate riders raced through 20 different games, testing speed, accuracy, teamwork and horsemanship as four State Championship titles went on the line.

And with two divisions ultimately requiring ride-offs, there was no shortage of excitement! Team Sporting – Gunners Take the Junior Title

The Junior Team Sporting competition featured ten games — Team Bend, Pyramid, 3 Mug Race, Fishing Race, Team Flag, Balloon Bursting, Straight Barrel, Sword, Bottle Exchange and Flag Exchange.

8 – Gunners produced a consistently strong performance across the program, finishing on an impressive 87 points to become the 2026 Junior Team Sporting State Champions.

3 – Blue Rush stayed within striking distance throughout the day and finished on 83 points to claim Reserve Champion, while 10 – Lucky Ducks secured third place with 70 points. The Associate competition proved even closer.

Just one point separated the top two teams, with S1 – Catch 22 finishing on 41 points to claim the State Championship ahead of S4 – Flying Foxes on 40 points.

S3 – Pretty Reckless completed the podium in third place on 32 points. Mounted Games – Two Divisions, Two Ride-Offs!

Mounted Games brought another ten fast-paced races to the arena — Postman's Chase, Old Sock, Mug Race, HiLo, Rope Race, Stepping Stones, Canadian, Quoits, Tack Shop and Five Flag. In the Junior Championship, 3 – B Rads from Zone 22 produced an outstanding performance, finishing on 88 points to secure the State Championship.

The battle for Reserve Champion was much tighter.

2 – Blue Rush from Zone 22 and 9 – Lucky Ducks from Zone 23 finished the competition locked together on 79 points each, meaning a ride-off was needed to decide the final placings. Blue Rush came out on top in the ride-off to claim Reserve Champion, with Lucky Ducks finishing third.

Further down the leaderboard, 4 – Fast & Furious and 11 – Zone 25 White also finished tied on 38 points.

The Associate Mounted Games Championship produced even more drama, with all four teams finishing in tied pairs.

S3 – Pretty Reckless and S4 – Flying Foxes finished equal on 39 points, while S1 – Catch 22 and S2 – Green Assassins were tied on 31.

That meant every placing in the division — including the State Championship itself — had to be decided by ride-off.

MOUNTED GAMES & TEAM SPORTING WRAP-UP CONTINUED

When the final race was run, Pretty Reckless emerged as the 2026 Associate Mounted Games State Champions, with Flying Foxes taking Reserve Champion.

Catch 22 won the second ride-off to secure third place ahead of Green Assassins.
State Squad Riders Step Up

The Championships were also an important opportunity for riders hoping to take the next step in Mounted Games.

Fourteen riders aged 13 to 15 nominated for consideration for the Pony Club NSW State Mounted Games Squad, wearing numbered bibs throughout the Mounted Games Championship to allow selectors to watch their performances across the weekend. It was fantastic to see so many riders putting themselves forward and taking advantage of the opportunity to be considered for the State Squad.

Special Awards

There was plenty to celebrate beyond the Championship ribbons, with several Zones recognised for their presentation, sportsmanship and teamwork.

Mounted Games Best Presented & Sportsmanship: Zone 19

Team Sporting Best Presented & Sportsmanship: Zone 22

Stable Showdown Winner: Zone 25

Congratulations to All Our Riders

Congratulations to every rider, team, coach, manager and Zone that took part in the 2026 Championships.

From riders experiencing their first State Championship to our experienced Associate combinations battling through incredibly close scorecards and ride-offs, the weekend was a wonderful showcase of the skill, teamwork and excitement that makes Mounted Games and Team Sporting such an important part of Pony Club.

A huge thank-you also goes to Technical Delegate Anthony for his calm and patient officiating throughout the weekend, as well as the Mounted Games officials, volunteers and helpers who worked behind the scenes to keep the competition running smoothly.

Thank you also to Dural Pony Club for hosting the Championships and helping make the weekend possible.

Congratulations again to all of our 2026 State Champions, Reserve Champions and competitors — what a weekend!



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🏆 NSW DOES THE DOUBLE IN DARWIN

2026 Pony Club Australia National Mounted Games Championships

What a championship for Team Pony Club NSW, with both our Junior and Senior teams crowned 2026 Pony Club Australia National Mounted Games Champions in Darwin!

It was a particularly special year for the event, with the Northern Territory hosting the National Mounted Games Championships for the very first time. Riders, families, officials and supporters from across Australia travelled north for several days of fast, competitive racing and plenty of Pony Club spirit.

🏆 Junior National Champions — Prince Philip Cup

Our NSW Junior team produced a brilliant performance to claim the Prince Philip Cup. Victoria started strongly, winning the opening races and holding a narrow advantage through the first half of the competition. The battle remained incredibly close, with NSW and Victoria locked together on 63 points after Windsor Castle before NSW moved ahead in the Two Mug. With only a few races remaining, just three points separated the leading teams. NSW then finished in outstanding fashion, winning the Tyre Race, Bottle Shuttle and final 5 Flag Race to secure the championship on 112 points, eight points ahead of Victoria.

Congratulations to:

Bailey Logue
Bella'rose Ivanoff
William Lapham
Luci Foster
Lizzie Scarlett
Reserves: Jack McLachlan and Micayla Cameron

Final Junior Placings:

🏆 NSW — 112 points
🥈 Victoria — 104 points
🥉 Tasmania — 76 points
4th Western Australia — 69 points
5th South Australia — 61.5 points
6th Northern Territory — 57.5 points



🏆 Senior National Champions

The success continued with our NSW Senior team also taking out the National Championship, bringing the Allan Hession Memorial Trophy home to New South Wales.

Congratulations to:

Alistair McLachlan
Bree Mackenzie
Douglas Gosling
Taleha Urszulak
Jared Newham
Reserve: Kasey Butcher

To have both our Junior and Senior teams return home as National Champions is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful reflection of the skill, teamwork and dedication of our NSW riders.

A Historic Championship for the Territory

A huge congratulations must also go to Pony Club NT for delivering the first National Mounted Games Championships ever held in the Northern Territory.

Hosting a national championship takes an enormous amount of work behind the scenes, and the event would not have been possible without the organising committee, officials, volunteers, sponsors and the generous horse owners who provided horses for visiting competitors.

Thank you also to the NSW team officials, families and supporters who travelled to Darwin and worked behind the scenes to support our riders throughout the Championships, and special thankyou to the families who donated the pool horses for our riders.

Our riders represented New South Wales with determination, teamwork and great sportsmanship, and we could not be prouder.

Two teams. Two National Championships. One unforgettable trip to Darwin. Congratulations Team NSW! 🏆💙



PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

Printed Newsletters Available

Newsletter copies will be available to download for free, or you can order your printed copy to be mailed out via our website from the September issue.



Available on our website



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PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

STABLE SHOWDOWN IS BACK!

Get ready to decorate & win!

- The Stable Showdown is designed to encourage camaraderie and team sportsmanship within and between Zones.
- Judging will be carried out by executive members of Pony Club NSW and the Junior Committee across the duration of the Championships from 9am Saturday to 11am Sunday.
- Judges will look for:**
 - ★ Zone area decoration and unity
 - ★ Displays that are horse friendly
 - ★ Sportsmanship and team encouragement
 - ★ No compromise to horse or rider safety
- The Zone with the most votes from participating executives will be awarded the Pony Club NSW Junior Committee Stable Showdown Prize from our sponsor **Kohnke's Own**.
- One Zone will be awarded the winner for the duration of the Championship and will be presented at the Final Presentation.

★ Bring your Zone spirit, creativity and teamwork! ★

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

Share Your Pony Club Story! ♥

- ★ We love celebrating the riders, volunteers, Clubs and Zones that make Pony Club NSW so special.
- ★ Send us your rider achievements, Club activities, community projects, volunteer stories, event highlights and special milestones for the chance to be featured in our monthly newsletter, social media channels and website.
- ★ Photos are always welcome—please make sure you have permission from everyone pictured before submitting them.

★ Send your stories and photos to: marketing@ponyclubnsw.org.au ★

➤ Your story could be featured next! ➤