



Newsletter Highlights

- Virtual Quiz now on Friday 20th November 2026
Entries Open on Justgo
- Entries Open Friday for State Dressage and Showriding
- End of Year Awards announced at Nov State meeting
- State Camp acceptances announced at Nov State Meeting.



From the President - Clare Martin

Hello Pony Club NSW Members,
What an exciting start to October it has been for Pony Club NSW, with some fantastic achievements, new opportunities and plenty to look forward to as we approach the end of another busy year!

A major highlight was Equimillion 2026, where we proudly hosted our inaugural Pony Club NSW Thoroughbred Combined Performance Championships at Sydney International Equestrian

Centre. It was wonderful to see our talented riders and their Thoroughbreds showcasing their skills, versatility and sportsmanship. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, and we couldn't be prouder of what was achieved. Our Pony Club NSW trade stand was also a huge hit! It was fantastic to connect with so many members, families and visitors, with our Spin the Wheel proving a crowd favourite and plenty of exciting prizes up for grabs! It was a wonderful opportunity to showcase Pony Club and introduce new families to our community. Our partnership with Racing NSW and Equimillion marks an exciting new chapter, creating opportunities, experiences and pathways for our members while celebrating Thoroughbreds beyond the racetrack. A heartfelt thank you to our staff, volunteers, officials, judges and sponsors who worked tirelessly to make the event such a success.

Next up are our State Showjumping and Jumping Equitation Championships in Gundagai, from 30 October to 1 November. It is incredibly encouraging to see such strong entry numbers and so many riders returning to State-level competition. This fantastic support gives us great confidence in the future of our State events, and with new Championships being introduced in 2027, we look forward to continuing to grow participation and provide even more opportunities for our members. I wish all competitors the very best of luck! As we head towards the end of the year, there is still plenty happening, including our upcoming Championships, educational opportunities and preparations for our 2027 State Camp. I would also like to acknowledge our wonderful clubs, zones, volunteers, instructors and families. You are the heart of Pony Club NSW, providing opportunities for our members to develop their riding skills, horsemanship, confidence, friendships and lifelong memories. Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. Let's keep celebrating our achievements, supporting one another and making the most of everything Pony Club has to offer. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming events as we finish 2026 on a high!

Our Sponsors / Supporters



Key Contacts at Pony Club NSW

President: Clare Martin
president@ponyclubnsw.org.au

Event Enquiries: Rebecca Egan
events@ponyclubnsw.org.au
(02) 4229 8977 option 3

Membership Enquiries, Club Administration: Elysha Sargent
admin@ponyclubnsw.org.au
(02) 4229 8977 Option 1

Communications, Marketing, Website Enquiries & Sponsorship: Renee Delicata
marketing@ponyclubnsw.org.au
(02) 4229 8977 option 2

Coaching, Instructors, Education: Jane Frankum
coach@ponyclubnsw.org.au

Accounts / Payments: Bindi Oates
accounts@ponyclubnsw.org.au

Chair of the Chief Instructors: Fiona Pennell
zone4zci@hotmail.com



October Events

October 30th - 1st November
2026 State Showjumping and Jumping Equitation Championships _ Gundagai

November Events

7-8 November
Zone 3 Showjumping Regional School, Cudal

14-15 November
Zone 20 Instructor School

20 November
2026 Pony Club NSW Virtual Quiz

23-24 November
State Council & ZCI Meetings

27-29 November
2026 State Dressage & Show Riding Championships, Tamworth



Jewellery at Pony Club

Did you know there are specific rules about wearing jewellery while riding at Pony Club? Safety is always our priority, and something as simple as an earring, necklace or ring can become a serious hazard if it catches on equipment or during a fall.

Under the 2026 Pony Club Australia National Gear Rules, here's what every rider needs to know:

- Earrings: Stud earrings are permitted in most disciplines. However, studs larger than 5mm in diameter must be taped over. All other types of earrings, including hoops and dangling earrings, are not permitted.
- Mounted Games: No stud earrings are permitted.
- Facial Piercings: Must be taped over.
- Rings: Must be removed or covered by gloves. Plain flat bands may also be taped.
- Necklaces & Bracelets: Non-medical necklaces and bracelets must be removed before riding.
- Medical Alert Jewellery: Medical necklaces and bracelets are permitted, but any medical identification disc must remain visible.

Why does it matter?

Jewellery can catch on reins, saddlery, clothing or other equipment, potentially causing injury to both horse and rider. These rules aren't about appearance — they're about keeping everyone safe.

Remember: Gear checks aren't just for your horse! Before heading into the arena, take a moment to check your own riding attire and ensure everything complies with the rules. Being a responsible Pony Club rider means understanding the rules, not just following them. **KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!**

 [Read the 2026 Pony Club Australia National Gear Rules](#) — Sections 1.09 and 1.16.

Safety Spotlight: Rider Responsibility

October Safety Check: Stirrup Leathers & Irons!

When was the last time you checked your stirrup leathers and irons? They're used every time you ride, yet they're often overlooked! Worn leathers, damaged stitching or poorly fitted stirrups can pose a serious safety risk.

Your Safety Check This Month

Before your next rally day or competition, take five minutes to inspect:

- Stirrup Leathers: Check for cracks, stretching, worn holes or damaged stitching.
- Stirrup Irons: Look for cracks, bending or sharp edges.
- Stirrup Treads: Ensure grips are secure and not worn or slippery.
- Correct Sizing: Check there is adequate clearance between your boot and stirrup iron.
- Stirrup Bars: Ensure they are in good condition and any safety release mechanism works correctly.

Our Challenge to Members!

This month, take your stirrup leathers and irons off your saddle and give them a thorough inspection with a parent or instructor.

If something looks worn or unsafe, have it checked before riding.

Remember: Five minutes checking today could prevent an accident tomorrow!

Club Of the Month



Congratulations to Leeton Pony Club, Zone 21, our Club of the Month!

Small in numbers but big on enthusiasm, Leeton Pony Club is a wonderful example of what Pony Club is all about — friendship, encouragement, education and having fun with horses!

With approximately 10 riding members aged 3 to 19 years and 5–8 dedicated volunteers, the club meets twice a month and offers a fantastic variety of disciplines, including Showjumping, Dressage, Polocrosse, Mounted Games, Sporting and even an introduction to Vaulting.

What makes Leeton Pony Club special is its supportive approach to building rider confidence. Members are encouraged to progress at their own pace, celebrate the small victories and work towards their goals without pressure.

One member shared how the club has helped them gain confidence taking their horse to training days and competitions, progressing one step at a time and recently achieving some wonderful first and second placings!

The club also places a strong emphasis on horse care, safety and education, incorporating these into rally days and camps, while creating opportunities for members to build friendships and have fun.

Beyond the arena, Leeton Pony Club keeps busy with fundraising activities, including pie drives and Krispy Kreme sales. Upcoming plans include a Pony Club ring at the Leeton Show, giving riders the opportunity to experience competition in a welcoming environment, along with a fun sporting day.

♥ Words of Wisdom from Leeton Pony Club

When asked what advice they would give other clubs, their message was simple:

"Just try to do it! We tried, failed and succeeded!"

A wonderful reminder that Pony Club is about giving things a go, learning along the way and supporting each other.

Congratulations, Leeton Pony Club!

Thank you for creating such a positive, inclusive and encouraging environment for your members! 🐾♥

Applying for a Gear Exception at Pony Club!

Did you know that Pony Club members can apply for reasonable adjustments to help them participate safely and comfortably in Pony Club activities?

Pony Club NSW is committed to providing a safe, welcoming and inclusive environment where riders of all abilities have the opportunity to participate.

We understand that some members may have medical conditions, disabilities, sensory sensitivities or other individual needs that make certain rules or requirements difficult to follow.

What is considered a reasonable adjustment?

Examples of requests that may be considered include:

- Sensory sensitivities: Permission to ride without gloves in Dressage where wearing gloves causes significant sensory discomfort.
- Medical conditions: Adjustments to equipment or participation requirements to accommodate a medical condition.
- Physical disabilities: The use of approved adaptive riding equipment or modified aids.
- Learning or cognitive difficulties: Having a Utility Pattern read aloud where appropriate.

Each application is assessed individually, with consideration given to rider safety, horse welfare and ensuring no unfair competitive advantage is gained.

How do you apply?

1. Visit the Pony Club Australia website and complete the Reasonable Adjustment Application Form.
2. Explain the adjustment you are requesting and why it is needed.
3. Attach supporting documentation from a medical or relevant health professional.
4. Submit your application online for assessment by Pony Club Australia and the relevant State Association.
5. Allow approximately 3–4 weeks for your application to be reviewed. Written approval must be received before using the adjustment.
- 6.

Once approved, the adjustment will be recorded on your JustGo membership profile. Members must advise event organisers of their approved adjustment when entering events.

Remember: An adjustment does not automatically mean an exemption will be granted. Requests must be reasonable, safe and consistent with horse welfare and fair competition.

Our message to members: If you or your child require an adjustment, please don't hesitate to apply. Pony Club is about education, participation and opportunity, and we want every member to feel supported.

👉 [Learn More & Apply for a Reasonable Adjustment](#) (PCA Website)



Ride of the Month: THEA 🐾💙

Meet our October Rider of the Month, six-year-old Thea from Black Range Pony Club, Zone 20!

At just six years old, Thea is already showing us what Pony Club is all about — building confidence, learning new skills, having fun and making wonderful memories with her pony!

Riding her much-loved pony Rainbow Skittles, Thea has made fantastic progress, recently learning to rise trot and gaining the confidence to participate in every event at a gymkhana, achieving placings in them all!

But it's not just about the ribbons for Thea. Her favourite thing about Rainbow Skittles is that she's like a real-life unicorn who looks after her, makes her smile and even tries to steal her hash browns and chips! 🐾

One of Thea's favourite riding memories is when her dad runs alongside her, especially when they both dressed up in pink! With Mum, Oma and Auntie Hayley cheering her on, Thea has a wonderful team supporting her equestrian journey. 😊

When she grows up, Thea dreams of becoming a showjumper and competing in showing, just like her Auntie Hayley. And when she's not riding, you'll probably find her jumping on the trampoline or watching her favourite movie, Spirit. Thea reminds us that Pony Club isn't always about jumping the biggest fences or winning championships. Sometimes the biggest achievements are finding your confidence, mastering a new skill and simply enjoying every moment with your pony.

🐾 Congratulations, Thea! Not only are you our October Rider of the Month, but you've also won a HorseWyse Magazine subscription! 🐾💙



Get Ready for 2027 Pony Club NSW Memberships Open 9 November!

It's almost time to saddle up for another exciting year of Pony Club! 2027 memberships officially open on Monday 9 November 2026, and there's a fantastic opportunity for new and returning members to get a head start!

💙 Join Early and Enjoy Almost 14 Months of Membership!

Anyone purchasing a membership from 9 November 2026 will be covered right through until 31 December 2027. That's nearly 14 months of Pony Club adventures, education, competitions and friendships!

Please note that the JustGo membership system will be temporarily unavailable for regular membership processing from 30 October until 9 November while preparations are made for the new membership year. Come and Try memberships will remain available during this time.

Thinking About Joining Pony Club?

Whether you're joining for the first time or returning after a break, now is the perfect opportunity to get involved!

We encourage new and returning members to contact their local Pony Club, express their interest and find out what activities are planned.

When applying through JustGo, simply select your preferred Pony Club. Your application will be sent to the Club Administrator for approval, and once accepted, you'll receive a notification to complete your membership payment.

With clubs across NSW operating at different times of the year, there's always something happening somewhere!

🛡️ DID YOU KNOW? Your Pony Club Membership Includes Insurance!

Your Pony Club membership offers more than just riding opportunities, education and friendships — it also provides valuable insurance benefits!

- Riding Members: Receive 24/7 Personal Accident and Liability insurance cover, subject to policy terms.
- Non-Riding Members: Receive insurance cover while attending Pony Club organised activities and events, subject to policy terms.

Pony Club Australia's insurance program, arranged through Gow Gates, offers extensive protection and is a valuable benefit of your membership.

Members can access insurance information, policy summaries and claim forms through the dedicated Gow Gates website.

👉 [View Pony Club Australia Insurance Information](#)

💙 Make the Most of Your Membership!

With insurance benefits, quality education, competitions and opportunities for riders of all ages and abilities, Pony Club membership represents fantastic value!

If you don't require membership with another equestrian organisation for competition, your Pony Club membership may already provide the insurance cover and opportunities you need, potentially saving you money.

Get ready for 2027 — another year of learning, riding, friendships and unforgettable Pony Club memories! 🐾💙



What an incredible few days of horses, friendships and fun at the 2026 Zone 12 Pony Club Camp!

Held from 30 September to 4 October at Lake Albert Pony Club Grounds in Wagga Wagga, the camp brought together 33 enthusiastic riders for three action-packed days of education, new experiences and plenty of Pony Club spirit!

With an outstanding line-up of coaches, riders had the opportunity to develop their skills across Showjumping, Cross Country, Dressage, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Horsemanship and Vaulting.

The talented coaching team included Ben Netterfield, Sue Walker, Jazmin Osborne, Rob McLachlan and Fiona Anderson, supported by dedicated local instructors.

There really was something for everyone, with riders encouraged to step outside their comfort zones, try something new and build confidence along the way.

One of the biggest highlights was the Vaulting sessions, which proved particularly popular! In a memorable moment, the Yellow Troop even put together a voluntary Vaulting performance at dinner, showing that the learning and fun certainly didn't stop when the riding finished!

The camp wrapped up with a special Ribbon Day, celebrating the efforts, achievements and progress of every rider. From mastering new skills to making new friends, there was plenty to be proud of.

The feedback from riders and families has been overwhelmingly positive, and it's easy to see why. Camps like these are what Pony Club is all about — bringing people together through a shared love of horses while creating opportunities to learn, grow and make memories that last a lifetime.

♥ A Big Thank You!

A huge congratulations to the Zone 12 Committee, organisers, instructors, parents and volunteers who worked tirelessly to make this camp possible.

With support through the Pony Club NSW Camp Grant Program, Zone 12 was able to engage more professional coaches while keeping camp fees affordable for families.

Well done, Zone 12! What a wonderful example of Pony Club education, teamwork and community spirit in action. We can't wait to see what you have planned next! 🐾♥

All Pony Club NSW Clubs or Zones are eligible to apply for the Camp Grant Funding on completion of their camp. Please apply to admin@ponyclubnsw.org.au

Horse Welfare

Keeping Our Horses Cool in the Heat ☀️

As temperatures rise, it's important to remember that our horses feel the heat too!

Horses can quickly become overheated, particularly during exercise, transport and competitions. Heat stress can be serious, so recognising the warning signs and taking preventative measures is an important part of responsible horsemanship.

💖 Keep Your Horse Happy & Healthy!

💧 Fresh Water: Ensure your horse always has access to plenty of clean, fresh water, especially during and after exercise.

🌿 Shade & Shelter: Provide adequate shade and good airflow, particularly during the hottest parts of the day.

☀️ Ride Smart: Avoid strenuous exercise during extreme heat. Plan riding sessions for the cooler mornings or evenings.

❄️ Cool Them Down: Use plenty of cool water over your horse's body to help reduce body temperature. Continue cooling as needed.

🐾 Know the Warning Signs: Watch for rapid breathing, excessive sweating, weakness, unusual behaviour or signs of distress.

🚚 Travel Safely: Ensure good ventilation when transporting horses and avoid leaving them standing in hot floats or trucks.

🚑 Remember: Horse Welfare Comes First!

If your horse shows signs of heat stress, stop exercising immediately, begin cooling with water and seek veterinary advice promptly.

No competition, ribbon or training session is ever more important than your horse's wellbeing. Happy Horses. Responsible Riders. Horse Welfare First! 💖 🐾



Sun Safety at Pony Club

Did you know Australia has one of the highest rates of skin cancer in the world, with more than two in three Australians diagnosed during their lifetime?

Pony Club is an outdoor sport, and whether we're riding, coaching, volunteering or cheering from the sidelines, we're often spending hours exposed to the sun. With spring well and truly here and summer just around the corner, it's the perfect time to remind everyone about the Pony Club Australia Sun Smart Policy and the importance of protecting ourselves from harmful UV rays.

🐾 Be Sun Smart at Pony Club!

Sunburn and UV damage can occur at any time of year, even on cloudy or cooler days. Developing good sun protection habits now can help reduce the risk of skin cancer later in life.

Here's how every Pony Club member can stay protected:

☀️ Slip on protective clothing: Wear long-sleeved shirts and sun-protective clothing wherever possible.

💧 Slop on sunscreen: Apply broad-spectrum SPF 30+ or higher sunscreen before arriving and reapply regularly throughout the day.

🧢 Slap on a hat: Wear a broad-brimmed hat when not mounted and keep one handy between riding sessions.

🕶️ Slide on sunglasses: Protect your eyes from UV exposure, both on and off your horse.

🌿 Seek shade: Make use of shaded areas during breaks and avoid unnecessary time in direct sunlight.

💧 Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water throughout the day, particularly during warmer weather.

💖 Setting a Positive Example

Sun safety is everyone's responsibility! Parents, instructors, officials and volunteers play an important role in encouraging sun-safe habits, particularly among younger riders.

Clubs are encouraged to provide shade, remind participants to reapply sunscreen and make sun protection part of every rally day and event.

Our Sun Smart Challenge!

Before your next rally day, check that you've packed your sunscreen, hat, sunglasses and water bottle!

Remember: Protecting yourself from the sun is just as important as wearing your helmet and checking your riding gear!

Safe Riders. Healthy Habits. Sun Smart Pony Clubs! ☀️ 🐾 💖



The Courage to Try Something New 🐾

When was the last time you stepped outside your comfort zone?

At Pony Club, some of our biggest achievements happen when we try something we've never done before!

Whether it's giving Mounted Games a go, riding a new Dressage test, making a new friend or joining your first competition, trying something new helps build confidence, resilience and independence.

🌟 Small Steps Lead to Big Things!

You don't have to be the best at something to enjoy it.

Every new experience is an opportunity to learn, grow and discover what you're capable of.

💙 Your Challenge This Month!

At your next rally day, try one new thing! It might be a different discipline, learning a new skill or simply putting your hand up to participate. Remember: You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to get better!

Be Brave. Try Something New.

Enjoy the Journey! 🐾💙



The Power of Positive Thinking 🐾

Did you know that the way you talk to yourself can have a big impact on your riding?

Every rider experiences moments of self-doubt. Whether it's approaching a challenging jump, learning a new skill or preparing for a competition, the little voice inside your head can either build your confidence or hold you back. Learning to develop a positive mindset is just as important as developing your riding skills!

🧠 Change Your Thinking, Change Your Riding!

Sometimes, a simple change in the words we use can make all the difference.

- ❌ "I can't do this." → ✅ "I can't do this YET!"
- ❌ "I'm going to mess up." → ✅ "I'm going to give it my best shot."
- ❌ "Everyone is better than me." → ✅ "I'm focusing on my own progress."
- ❌ "That was terrible!" → ✅ "What can I learn from that?"
- ❌ "I'll never get it right." → ✅ "Every practice makes me better."

🌟 Progress Over Perfection

The best riders aren't the ones who never make mistakes — they're the ones who keep learning, stay patient and celebrate their progress.

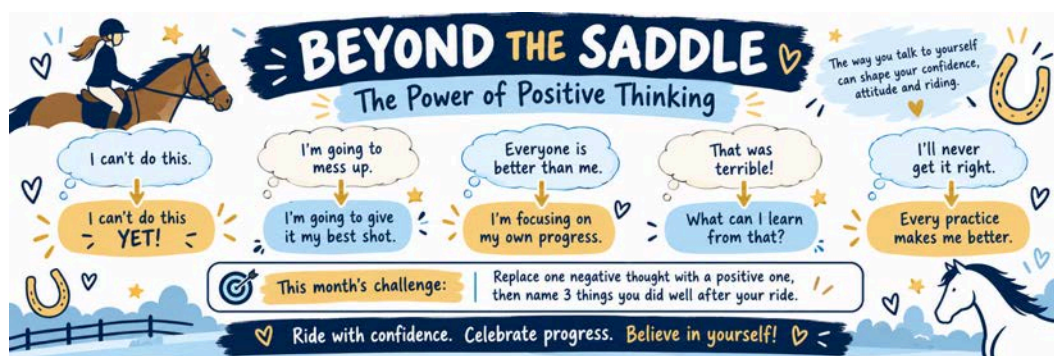
Instead of measuring your success against someone else's achievements, focus on how far you've come. Perhaps you've mastered a new skill, improved your position or simply felt more relaxed in the saddle. These are all achievements worth celebrating!

💙 Your Challenge This Month!

At your next rally day or training session, replace one negative thought with a positive one. After riding, identify three things you did well and one thing you'd like to improve.

Remember, confidence isn't about believing you'll get everything right — it's about trusting yourself to keep learning.

Ride with confidence. Celebrate progress. Believe in yourself! 🐾💙



☀️ The 5-Minute Body Language Detective!

How well can you read your horse? This month, we're challenging Pony Club members to become body language detectives and discover what their horses are communicating!

🎯 Your Mission: Identify five different body language signals and learn what they might mean.

👁️ Let's Get Started!

1. Watch from a Distance (1 Minute) Observe your horse quietly from a safe position. Are their ears forward, sideways or relaxed? What is their tail doing? How are they standing?

2. Approach & Observe (1 Minute) Approach your horse calmly and safely. Do they turn towards you, move their ears or change their posture? What might these reactions tell you?

3. Groom & Discover (2 Minutes) While grooming, pay attention to your horse's expressions. Do they relax, lower their head or show signs of tension? Notice which areas they enjoy being groomed and whether any areas cause discomfort.

4. Become a Detective (1 Minute) Think about five signals you've noticed. Were they signs of relaxation, curiosity, excitement or discomfort? Remember to consider the whole horse and their surroundings.

💙 Bonus Challenge!

Repeat the exercise on three different days. Do you notice any differences in your horse's behaviour? Share your observations with your Pony Club instructor and discuss what the signals might mean.

Great horsepeople don't just ride well — they understand their horses! **Observe. Listen. Learn. Connect.**



Can You Read Your Horse's Body Language?

Your horse is talking to you all the time — but are you listening?

Horses may not speak our language, but they communicate constantly through their ears, eyes, facial expressions, tails and body movements. Learning to understand these signals is an essential part of good horsemanship, helping us build trust, recognise discomfort and keep both horse and rider safe.

👁️ Understanding Your Horse's Signals

👂 Ears – Listening & Attention

A horse's ears can tell us a lot about where their attention is focused. Ears pointing forward often indicate interest or curiosity, while ears turned backwards may simply mean they're listening to something behind them. However, ears pinned tightly against the head can signal fear, pain or irritation.

👁️ Eyes – Relaxed or Worried?

Soft eyes and relaxed facial muscles are often signs of a comfortable horse. Wide eyes, visible whites or tension around the eyes may indicate fear, stress or excitement. Look at the whole expression rather than just the eyes.

👉 Tail – More Than Just Swishing Flies!

A gently swishing tail is often simply keeping flies away. However, repeated forceful tail swishing, particularly when combined with pinned ears or tense muscles, may indicate irritation, frustration or discomfort. A tightly clamped tail can also be a sign of fear or tension.

💙 Body Posture – The Bigger Picture

A relaxed horse will often stand comfortably with soft muscles and a natural head position. A raised head, tense neck, rigid posture or restless movements may suggest the horse is alert, worried or uncomfortable.

☀️ Why Is Body Language So Important?

Recognising changes in your horse's behaviour can help you:

- Identify signs of stress, fear or discomfort before they escalate.
- Understand when your horse is relaxed and enjoying an activity.
- Recognise potential pain, illness or equipment discomfort.
- Build a stronger relationship through patience, trust and understanding.
- Make safer, more informed decisions when handling and riding.

💙 Remember: Every Horse Is Different!

Just like people, horses have individual personalities and ways of communicating. A particular signal may mean different things depending on the horse and situation. The key is to observe the whole horse, consider what's happening around them and learn what's normal for your horse.

If you notice sudden or unusual changes in behaviour, don't ignore them — they may indicate pain or discomfort that needs further investigation.

Great horsemanship isn't just about what we ask our horses to do. It's about taking the time to understand what they're telling us.

Observe. Understand. Respect. Build Trust. 🐾💙

☀️ The Rhythm & Balance Challenge

Can you maintain the same rhythm before, between and after every fence?

This month's challenge is all about improving your canter, riding accurate lines and preparing your horse for the next jump!

🎯 Set Up Your Exercise

With your instructor, set up three ground poles around the arena, creating a simple course with turns between each pole. Use cones to mark your riding lines.

🐾 Give It a Go!

1. Find Your Rhythm: Start at trot, riding over each pole while maintaining a steady pace.

2. Ride Your Turns: Look ahead, use your corners and keep your horse balanced and straight towards each pole.

3. Keep the Canter: When ready, repeat at canter. Can you maintain the same rhythm throughout?

4. Add the Jumps: With your instructor's guidance, progress to small fences appropriate to your level, keeping the same focus on rhythm and balance.

💙 Bonus Challenge!

Ask your instructor to watch your round. Did your rhythm change through the turns or after landing?

Try again and see if you can improve without changing the height of the fences!

Remember: Better jumping isn't about jumping higher — it's about riding every stride better!



The Secret to Better Jumping Starts Between the Fences!

Did you know that some of the most important parts of a Showjumping round happen when you're not actually jumping?

Last month, we explored why good jumping isn't about the height of the fences, but about building strong foundations. This month, we're taking that one step further and looking at something every successful jumping combination needs — rhythm, balance and preparation between fences.

☀️ It's Not Just About the Jump!

It's easy to focus on getting over the next fence, but what happens between jumps is just as important.

A good jumping round isn't simply a series of fences. It's about maintaining a consistent canter, riding accurate lines, making balanced turns and giving your horse the best possible approach to every obstacle.

When riders rush, lose rhythm or make sudden adjustments, jumping becomes harder for both horse and rider.

🐾 The Three Keys to a Better Round

1. Rhythm Before Distance

A consistent, balanced canter makes it easier for your horse to find a comfortable take-off point. Rather than constantly adjusting your stride to find the perfect distance, focus on maintaining an even rhythm.

2. Ride Your Turns

Your approach begins long before the fence! Look ahead, plan your line and keep your horse balanced through each turn. A well-ridden corner can make all the difference to the next jump.

3. Think Beyond the Fence

Your job doesn't finish when your horse lands. Look towards your next fence, maintain your balance and re-establish your rhythm. A good landing sets you up for a successful next approach.

💙 A Tip for Riders

Next time you're training, challenge yourself to ride a course of poles on the ground before adding jumps.

Can you maintain the same rhythm, ride accurate turns and keep your horse straight from start to finish?

If you can do it over poles, you're building the skills you'll need when the fences get bigger!

👨🏻 A Tip for Parents

Instead of focusing only on whether your child jumped clear, watch how they ride between the fences.

Did they maintain a steady rhythm? Were their turns balanced? Did they make thoughtful decisions?

These are the skills that develop confident, capable riders and happy jumping horses.

☀️ Remember!

A great jumping round isn't made at the fence — it's built in every stride before and after it.

The goal isn't simply to get over the jumps. It's to make every jump easier for your horse through good riding, preparation and partnership.

Better Rhythm. Better Balance. Better Jumping. 🐾💙



2026 State Championships Save the Date



Entries Open Friday via Event Secretary



Entries Open Now on JustGo

Teaching Better Rhythm, Balance & Preparation

Great jumping starts with great foundations! This month, we're encouraging Pony Club instructors to focus on what happens between the fences, helping riders develop consistent rhythm, balanced turns and accurate approaches.

🎯 Three Key Teaching Points

1. Rhythm Before Distance: Encourage riders to maintain a consistent, balanced canter rather than constantly adjusting to find the perfect take-off point.
2. Preparation Through Turns: Teach riders to look ahead, plan their lines and keep their horses balanced through corners.
3. Ride Away from the Fence: Remind riders that the jump doesn't end at landing! Maintaining balance and rhythm prepares them for the next obstacle.

🌟 Instructor Exercise: The Rhythm & Line Challenge

Set up three ground poles around the arena, with cones marking the intended lines.

1. Ask riders to complete the course at trot, maintaining a steady rhythm.
2. Encourage accurate turns, straight approaches and looking ahead.
3. Repeat at canter when appropriate, focusing on balance and consistency.
4. Progress to small fences only when horse and rider are confident and ready.

💖 Coaching Tip: Ask, Don't Just Tell!

Encourage riders to reflect by asking:

- "Did your rhythm change through that turn?"
- "Was your horse balanced on the approach?"
- "What could you improve next time?"
-

Remember: Great coaching develops riders who understand why something works, not just how to do it.

Better Coaching. Better Foundations. Better Jumping. 🐾💖



🐾 TRY THIS: THE TRANSITION LADDER CHALLENGE!

This month, we're taking transitions to the next level with a fun exercise to improve your horse's responsiveness, balance and communication!

🎯 THE EXERCISE

Set up four cones in a straight line, approximately 15–20 metres apart, adjusting the distances to suit your horse and riding level.

Ride along the cones and perform a different transition at each marker:
Walk → Trot → Walk → Halt
Focus on preparing your horse before each cone, keeping straight and maintaining your balance throughout.

🌟 READY FOR A BIGGER CHALLENGE?

Once your transitions are smooth, try:
Walk → Trot → Canter → Trot → Walk
For more experienced riders, practise making smaller changes within the trot, lengthening and shortening the strides while maintaining rhythm.

💡 ASK YOURSELF:

- Did my horse respond to light, clear aids?
- Did I prepare before each transition?
- Could I maintain my balance and straightness?
- Were my transitions smooth rather than rushed?

Remember: The goal isn't to make as many transitions as possible — it's to make each one better than the last! Small Changes. Better Balance. Stronger Partnerships. That's Taking It All in Our Stride! 🐾💙



The Power of Transitions

Small Changes, Big Improvements in Your Riding!

Did you know that one of the best ways to improve your horse's balance, responsiveness and communication is through something as simple as transitions? Last month, we explored why good flatwork is the foundation of every riding discipline. This month, we're focusing on transitions — one of the most valuable exercises every rider can practise!

Whether moving from walk to trot, trot to canter or changing pace within a gait, transitions help develop balance, strength and better communication between horse and rider.

🌟 It's Not Just About Changing Gears!

A good transition should feel smooth, balanced and controlled, with your horse responding willingly to your aids.

Three things to focus on:

1. Preparation Is Everything: Sit tall, look ahead and prepare your horse with clear, consistent aids before asking for a transition.
2. Quality Over Quantity: Five calm, balanced transitions are more valuable than ten rushed ones. Focus on smooth, controlled changes.
3. Ride Every Stride: Maintain your position, rhythm and straightness after the transition. Don't stop riding once you've changed gait!

💙 For Riders | Feel the Difference

Can you transition from walk to trot without rushing? Can you return to walk without pulling heavily on the reins?
Focus on developing light, clear communication rather than stronger aids.

👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 For Parents | Celebrate the Small Improvements

Transitions might not look exciting from the sidelines, but they develop skills that carry into every discipline. Celebrate smoother transitions, lighter aids and improved balance — these are achievements worth recognising!

🎓 For Instructors | Make Every Transition Count

Use arena letters, cones or markers to give riders clear transition points. Encourage preparation several strides beforehand and ask riders to reflect:

- "Did your horse respond when you asked?"
- "Was the transition smooth or rushed?"
- "Did you maintain your balance?"

For experienced riders, introduce transitions within the gait to develop greater control and responsiveness.

🏆 For Clubs & Zones | Make Flatwork Fun!

Incorporate transition challenges, cone patterns, arena-letter games and accuracy exercises into rally days. Adapt activities to suit different riding levels and reward good preparation and thoughtful riding.

🌟 Remember!

Great flatwork isn't about complicated movements — it's about doing the simple things really well.

Every balanced transition builds better communication and a stronger partnership between horse and rider.

Better Transitions. Better Communication. Better Riding. 🐾💙



PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

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.

Develop Educate Inspire

BRONZE LEVEL
NEW PONY CLUB INSTRUCTOR (Updated 2023)

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

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.

Develop Educate Inspire

SILVER LEVEL
NEW PONY CLUB INSTRUCTOR (First Edition 2023)

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

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 NSW Education & Training Opportunities

Did you know that Pony Club NSW offers a range of educational schools and training opportunities across our Zones each year?

Education is at the heart of Pony Club, and we're committed to providing opportunities for our members, riders, instructors and volunteers to continue learning and developing their skills.

Each year, Pony Club NSW offers Zones the opportunity to host State Educational Schools, covering everything from rider development and instructor accreditation to judging, course designing and gear checking.

These schools are coordinated through Zone Committees and applications are submitted to Pony Club NSW via the Zone Chief Instructor (ZCI).

What Schools Are Available?

Instructor Schools | Ages 16+

Interested in becoming a Pony Club instructor? Or perhaps you're already an instructor looking to develop your skills and update your qualifications? Each Zone is encouraged to host at least one Instructor School every two years. Instructor Assessments | Ages 16+

Ready to gain your instructor accreditation? These assessments provide the opportunity for Pony Club NSW members to achieve recognised qualifications, including:

- Bronze Instructor
- PCA Preliminary Instructor
- Silver Instructor
- PCA Level One Instructor
-

Regional Schools | Riders 25 Years & Under

A fantastic opportunity to learn from highly qualified and experienced coaches across a variety of disciplines, including Dressage, Showjumping, Campdrafting, Jumping Equitation, Tetrathlon, Mounted Games, Polocrosse, Combined Training and Show Riding.

Whether you're looking to improve your skills, gain confidence or develop your knowledge, Regional Schools offer valuable learning experiences.

Senior Regional Schools | Ages 13–25

Designed for riders already competing at a good level who are looking to further develop their skills and performance.

Senior Regional Schools are offered in Eventing, Dressage and Showjumping, providing specialised coaching for riders wanting to take their training to the next level.

Specialist Schools | Ages 16+

Ever thought about becoming a judge or course designer?

Specialist Schools provide education and development opportunities in:

- Dressage Judging
- Showjumping Judging
- Showjumping Course Designing
- Show Riding Judging
- Jumping Equitation Judging

SAVE THE DATE

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES



2027 STATE CAMP

10th -14th January 2027

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

SAVE THE DATE

2027
Heritage Festival of Championships

White Park, Scone

19-25 April 2027

Pony Club NSW

LEARN TOGETHER COMPETE TOGETHER BELONG TOGETHER

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

SAVE THE DATE

2027 Festival of Championships (Olympic)

1-7 JULY 2027

AELEC, TAMWORTH NSW

MORE DETAILS COMING SOON

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

SAVE THE DATE

2027
Polocross Gala

4-8 July 2027

Merriwa

More details coming soon

LEARN TOGETHER COMPETE TOGETHER BELONG TOGETHER

Gear Check Schools & Assessments

Gear checking plays an important role in maintaining safety and horse welfare at Pony Club activities.

Zones should conduct at least one Gear Check School and Assessment each year. Clubs with members interested in attending are encouraged to contact their Zone Chief Instructor.

♥ Want to Get Involved?

These opportunities are a fantastic way to build your skills, gain qualifications, support your club and give back to the Pony Club community.

If you'd like to attend a school or think your Zone would benefit from hosting one, speak to your Zone Chief Instructor!

PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

*Develop
Educate
Inspire*

INTERESTED IN BRINGING A

**JUMPING
EQUITATION**

**JUDGES & PENCILLERS
SCHOOL**

to your area?

Speak with your ZCI and register your interest.

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

*Support
Develop
Grow*



THANK You

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Equimillion 2026 – What an Incredible Experience for Pony Club NSW!

What an unforgettable few days at Equimillion 2026! From our hugely popular trade stand to the excitement of hosting our very first Pony Club NSW Thoroughbred Combined Performance Championships, it was a fantastic opportunity to showcase Pony Club NSW, celebrate our members and strengthen our partnership with Racing NSW.

Held at the Sydney International Equestrian Centre, Equimillion brought together Thoroughbred enthusiasts, riders and the wider equestrian community for an incredible celebration of the versatility, talent and potential of Thoroughbred horses.

 **Our First Thoroughbred Combined Performance Championships**
On Monday 5 October, Pony Club NSW proudly hosted its inaugural Thoroughbred Combined Performance Championships, welcoming 37 riders and their Thoroughbreds to compete across our Silks 60cm and Cup 80cm divisions.

Competitors showcased their skills across three components — Presentation & Turnout, Flatwork and Jumping Equitation — highlighting not only their riding ability but also the importance of horsemanship, horse welfare and the special partnership between horse and rider.

The standard of competition was fantastic, with wonderful sportsmanship, beautifully presented horses and plenty of smiles throughout the day. The feedback from competitors, families and supporters has been overwhelmingly positive, and we're already excited about the opportunities to grow this event in the future!

 **Celebrating Our Sponsored Pony Club NSW Riders!**
We were also incredibly proud to support five talented Pony Club NSW riders who were selected to compete at Equimillion 2026 across Showjumping, Dressage and Eventing.

A huge congratulations to our sponsored riders:

- Showjumping: Jack Makim riding Come By Chance
- Showjumping: Matilda Nicol riding Harley
- Dressage: Phoebe Marr riding Fu Lum
- Eventing: Laila Lynch riding Haze
- Eventing: Mara McGovern riding Araluen Bella

These riders were wonderful ambassadors for Pony Club NSW, showcasing their talent, dedication and passion for their Thoroughbreds on such a fantastic stage.

It was incredibly rewarding to see our members competing at Equimillion and making the most of these exciting opportunities. We are so proud to have supported their journey and look forward to following their continued success!





🏠 Our Trade Stand Was a Huge Hit!

Our Pony Club NSW trade stand was buzzing with activity throughout the event! From our hugely popular spinning wheel and giveaways to chatting with members, families and visitors, it was wonderful to see so many people stopping by to learn more about Pony Club.

It was also a fantastic opportunity to connect with the wider equestrian community, promote the benefits of Pony Club membership and showcase the education, pathways and experiences available to riders beyond the competition arena.

💙 More Than Just a Competition

Our involvement in Equimillion represents an exciting step forward in our partnership with Racing NSW, creating new opportunities for Pony Club members through education, equine welfare, career pathways and continued participation in equestrian sport.

We were also proud to be part of the Equimillion Education Hub, sharing the message that Pony Club is about so much more than riding — it's about developing skills, building confidence, creating friendships, learning valuable life lessons and opening doors to a future with horses.

This partnership is about recognising the important role Pony Club plays in developing the next generation of equestrians and creating meaningful connections between Pony Club, the Thoroughbred industry and the wider equestrian community.

🙌 A Huge Thank You!

An event of this scale would not have been possible without the support of so many wonderful people.

A heartfelt thank you to Racing NSW and the Equimillion team for welcoming Pony Club NSW and supporting our vision, along with our generous Championship sponsors Rodneys Photography, Saddleworld, Kohnke's Own, HorseWyse Magazine, Sports Framing Factory and Animi Equine.

We would also like to acknowledge our dedicated judges, officials, volunteers, staff and everyone who helped bring our Championships and trade stand to life. Your time, hard work and enthusiasm made this event such a success!

And of course, congratulations to all our competitors! You represented Pony Club NSW with pride and demonstrated everything that makes our Pony Club community so special.

This was just the beginning! We are incredibly excited about what the future holds for our partnership with Racing NSW and the opportunities it will continue to create for Pony Club NSW members.

We can't wait to return bigger and better!

Every Thoroughbred has a story, and we're proud to be part of the next chapter. 🐾💙





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



Sponsored by:





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! ★



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!

