PONY CLUB
NEW SOUTH WALES

NOVEMBER 2026 EDITION

PONE NEWS



Newsletter Highlights

- Virtual Quiz now on Friday 20th November 2026 Entries Open on Justgo
- Office Closure 18th Dec - 4th Jan 2027
- End of Year Awards annouced at Nov State meeting
- State Camp acceptances announced at Nov State Meeting.

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From the President - Clare Martin

From the President – November 2026
As we head into November, it's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner! While many of our Clubs and Zones are beginning to wind down their activities for the year, there is still plenty happening across Pony Club NSW as we look ahead to an exciting finish to 2026.
One of the highlights we are looking forward to this month is our State Dressage & Show Riding Championships, being held at Tamworth Pony Club, Zone 5, from 27–29 November. We are excited to welcome riders, families, officials and supporters for what promises to be another wonderful State Championship. I wish all our competitors the very best of luck and hope everyone enjoys a fantastic weekend of competition, friendship and sportsmanship.

2027 Pony Club NSW memberships are now officially open! We are excited to welcome back our returning members and look forward to seeing plenty of new faces joining our Pony Club family. Whether you're a long-time member or just beginning your Pony Club journey, there is so much to look forward to in the year ahead.

Pony Club continues to offer our young riders so much more than just time in the saddle. It is about building confidence, developing skills, making lifelong friendships and creating opportunities for young people to grow both as riders and individuals.

As we begin looking towards 2027, I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing dedication of our wonderful volunteers, instructors, officials and Club and Zone committees. Your commitment continues to make Pony Club NSW such a special community, and we appreciate everything you do to support our members.
With Christmas approaching and another exciting year of Pony Club on the horizon, there is plenty to look forward to. I hope everyone enjoys the remaining events and activities on the calendar, and I look forward to seeing our riders in action at Tamworth later this month.
Warm regards,

Clare Martin
President
Pony Club NSW

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November Events

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



👂 GEAR SPOTLIGHT: EAR PLUGS

DID YOU KNOW? Ear plugs are NOT permitted at Pony Club! ❌
Ear plugs are sometimes used in horses to reduce noise and distractions, particularly in busy competition environments. But are they allowed at Pony Club?

❤️💙 **WHAT DO THE RULES SAY?**
❌ Ear plugs are NOT permitted at Pony Club rallies, training or competitions.
✅ Ear bonnets, fly hoods and ear covers ARE permitted in most Pony Club disciplines.
✅ Ear bonnets and fly hoods may be made from sound-reducing materials.
❌ Ear bonnets and hoods must NOT be tied down to the noseband.

⚠️ **IMPORTANT:** Ear bonnets and hoods are not permitted in Horse Archery, Tent Pegging, Campdrafting, Working Equitation or Stockman's Challenge.

💡 **OUR TIP:** Just because a piece of gear is commonly used at other equestrian competitions doesn't mean it's approved for Pony Club!

Always check your gear before heading to your next rally or competition.

🐴 **KNOW THE RULES. HORSE COMES FIRST.**

📖 Reference: Pony Club Australia National Gear Rules 2026 – Sections 2.13 and 2.13.1, Page 26.

🔗 View the National Gear Rules: https://ponyclubnsw.org.au/policies/

Safety Spotlight: Girths & Buckles!

When was the last time you checked your horse's girth?
It's one of the most important pieces of equipment keeping your saddle secure, yet it's easy to overlook! Worn stitching, damaged buckles or stretched elastic can compromise your saddle's stability and put both horse and rider at risk.

✅ **Your Safety Check This Month**
Before your next rally day or competition, take five minutes to inspect:

- Girth Material: Check for cracks, tears, excessive wear or damage.
- Buckles: Look for rust, bending, cracks or sharp edges that could cause injury.
- Stitching: Inspect all stitching, particularly around buckles and attachment points, for loose or broken threads.
- Elastic Panels: If your girth has elastic, check that it hasn't become overstretched, frayed or lost its strength.
- Correct Fit: Ensure your girth is the correct size, sits comfortably and doesn't pinch or rub your horse.
- Girth Points: Check the straps on your saddle for cracks, stretching or worn buckle holes.

💙 **Our Challenge to Members!**
This month, remove your girth from your saddle and give it a thorough inspection with a parent or instructor.
Don't forget to check your girth is secure before mounting and again after warming up, as it may need adjusting once your horse starts moving.
If something looks worn or unsafe, have it checked or replaced before riding.
Remember: A secure saddle starts with safe equipment. Five minutes checking today could prevent an accident tomorrow! 🐴💙





🐴💙 Safety Spotlight: Educate, Don't Intimidate!

It's not just about knowing the rules – it's about how we communicate them!

At Pony Club NSW, our Gear Checkers, Zone Chief Instructors (ZCIs) and Instructors play an important role in ensuring the safety of our riders and horses. But there's something just as important as enforcing the rules – the way we explain them.

When a rider arrives at a gear check with incorrect or non-compliant equipment, our first approach should always be one of education, encouragement and respect.

Many of our members are young riders who are still learning, and not every parent or rider will know or understand every rule.

✅ A Positive Approach to Gear Checks

- Explain, Don't Just Enforce: Rather than simply telling a rider their gear is wrong, take a moment to explain which rule applies and why it exists.
- Be Approachable: A friendly attitude and calm conversation can make all the difference, especially for nervous or inexperienced riders.
- Educate for Next Time: Help riders and parents understand what needs to change so they can arrive better prepared at their next event.
- Be Consistent and Fair: Rules apply equally to everyone, regardless of their experience or competition level.
- Offer Solutions: Where possible, explain how the issue can be corrected so the rider can safely participate.
- Remember Your Audience: We're often speaking to children and young people. A gear check should be a positive learning experience, not something they dread.

💙 Our Message to Officials and Instructors

Being responsible for enforcing the rules doesn't mean we need to be intimidating, aggressive or confrontational.

A rider should never walk away from a gear check feeling embarrassed, belittled or afraid to ask questions.

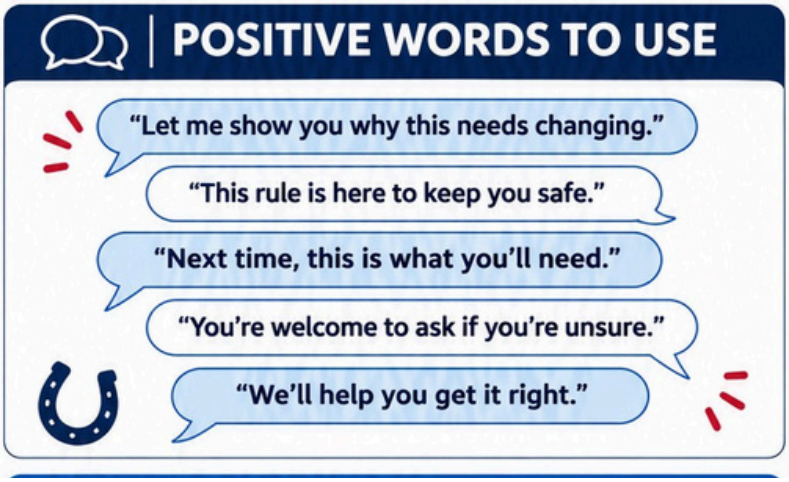
We can be firm on safety and compliance while still being kind, patient and supportive.

Remember, Pony Club is an educational organisation. Every gear check is an opportunity to teach our members something valuable about safety, horse welfare and responsible riding.

🐴 Let's make gear checks a place where riders learn, not a place where they feel judged.

The rules keep us safe. The way we teach them helps build confident, knowledgeable riders for the future. 💙❤️

















🐴💙 **2027 PONY CLUB NSW MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW OPEN!**

It's time to saddle up for another exciting year of Pony Club!
2027 Pony Club NSW memberships are officially OPEN for new and returning members! 🎉
Whether you're a current member renewing for another year, joining Pony Club for the very first time or returning after a break, we'd love to welcome you to our Pony Club community!

💙 **Thinking About Joining Pony Club?**
Pony Club is about so much more than riding! It's a place to learn new skills, build confidence, make lifelong friendships and enjoy being part of a supportive equestrian community.
With clubs across NSW offering a range of activities, education, training and competitions, there's something for riders of all ages and abilities.

We encourage new members to contact their local Pony Club to find out more about their activities and how to get involved.

✅ **How to Join or Renew**
Memberships are processed through our JustGo membership portal.

- Returning Members: Simply log in to your JustGo account and renew your membership for 2027.
- New Members: Create a JustGo account and select your preferred Pony Club.
- Club Approval: New membership applications are sent to the Club Administrator for approval. Once approved, you'll receive a notification to complete your payment.

Please note: Memberships are available once individual clubs have activated their 2027 membership categories and fees.

🛡️ **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 and conditions.
- Non-Riding Members: Receive insurance cover while attending Pony Club organised activities and events, subject to policy terms and conditions.

Pony Club Australia's insurance program, arranged through Gow Gates, provides valuable protection as part 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

💙 **WHY JOIN PONY CLUB NSW?**
🐴 Quality riding instruction and education
🏆 Competitions from Club through to State and National level
📚 Opportunities to learn horse care, management and welfare
🤝 Friendships, teamwork and a welcoming community
🌟 Leadership and personal development opportunities
🛡️ Valuable membership insurance benefits
❤️ A supportive environment for riders of all ages and abilities

🐴 **Make 2027 Your Year at Pony Club!**
From your first rally day to achieving your next competition goal, there's a place for everyone at Pony Club NSW.

We can't wait to welcome our returning members and meet the new faces joining us in 2027!
💙 Renew or join today through JustGo and be part of the Pony Club NSW community!









🐴💙 Horse Comes First: Understanding Responsible Whip Use

Good horsemanship isn't about how much pressure we apply — it's about how well we communicate with our horses.

At Pony Club NSW, horse welfare is always our number one priority. As riders, we have a responsibility to treat our horses with kindness, patience and respect, both at home and in the competition arena.

💙 A Whip Is an Aid, Not a Punishment
When used correctly, a whip can be a useful training aid to reinforce a rider's leg aids and help communicate a clear instruction.

However, excessive hitting, repeated striking or using a whip out of frustration is never acceptable.

Pony Club Australia's Horse Welfare Policy makes it clear that whips must never be used as a form of punishment or to deliberately cause pain or distress.

🐴 Listen to What Your Horse Is Telling You
Sometimes a horse may hesitate, refuse a jump or struggle with an exercise. Rather than reacting with frustration, take a moment to consider why.

Is your horse confused about what you're asking? Could they be tired, uncomfortable, frightened or simply lacking confidence?

A good rider learns to recognise these signs and responds with patience and understanding.

Remember, a horse doesn't learn through fear. It learns through clear communication, consistency and rewarding the correct response.

🌟 Setting the Right Example
Our instructors, parents and experienced riders play an important role in teaching the next generation of horse people.
Encourage riders to use their aids correctly, recognise when their horse needs a break and seek guidance when things aren't going to plan.

If you witness inappropriate whip use, addressing it calmly and constructively provides an opportunity to educate while protecting the horse's welfare.

❤️ Ride with Kindness, Train with Respect
Success in the saddle should never come at the expense of our horse's wellbeing. Whether you're learning to trot, jumping your first course or competing at State level, the same principle applies.
A great rider isn't just someone who wins ribbons — it's someone whose horse is happy, healthy and willing to work with them.

🐴 Horse Comes First. Always. 💙❤️

Learn more about responsible training and horse welfare in the Pony Club Australia Horse Welfare Policy, available through the Pony Club NSW Policies page.









💙 More Than Riding: A Heartfelt Message from Zone 25 Jamboree

Sometimes it's not the ribbons or trophies that leave the biggest impression at a Pony Club event, but the words of a young rider who reminds us what Pony Club is really all about.

At the recent Zone 25 Jamboree held at Stroud, Gloucester Pony Club Associate rider Melody Maslen took to the microphone to thank the organisers, volunteers and families on behalf of her fellow riders.

"As someone who has seen the ups and downs of Pony Club numbers, to come and see how many young kids are loving Pony Club, it makes me really happy. That can't be done without all the organisers and parents."

For Melody, Pony Club is a family tradition spanning more than 50 years. Her grandparents, Allen and Dianne Shultz, introduced the family to Gloucester Pony Club, with her mother Sally and siblings Charlotte and Nicholas all following the same pathway.

Melody has enjoyed success at local, interclub and State level in Sporting, Campdrafting and Team Penning, but her passion extends well beyond competing.

She's always willing to lend a hand, encourage younger riders and acknowledge the volunteers who make events possible.

Having experienced Gloucester Pony Club's challenges following COVID-19, when membership dropped to just a couple of dedicated riders, Melody was particularly proud to see so many young members enjoying the Jamboree.

Melody is a wonderful example of the leadership, sportsmanship and community spirit that Pony Club develops in our young people.

Pony Club NSW congratulates Melody and thanks everyone involved in making the Zone 25 Jamboree such a memorable weekend.

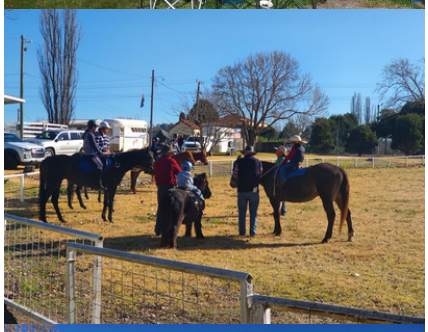
It's a beautiful reminder that Pony Club is about so much more than riding! 🐴💙















💙 Volunteer Spotlight: Don Phelan – Tenterfield Pony Club, Zone 13

He Came to Retire… Pony Club Had Other Plans! 🐴⛳

When Don Phelan moved from the Gold Coast to Tenterfield in 2020, he had a simple retirement plan: travel, play golf and enjoy a quieter life.

Unfortunately for Don, Tenterfield Pony Club had other ideas!

It wasn't long before word spread that Don came from the well-known Phelan horse family of Meldorn, Tamworth, with a lifetime of experience in instructing, show riding, jumping and campdrafting.

He was also a regular Sydney Royal competitor and even spent time clowning at rodeos alongside John Kelly and a pony named Ice Cream. In one memorable incident, Ice Cream helped himself to the lettuce from the official Royal Agricultural Society smorgasbord table. Somehow, Don managed to keep his job!

After Don and his wife Trish purchased acreage in a particularly horsey part of Tenterfield, the local Pony Club committee spotted an opportunity. With horses over the fence and some persistent encouragement from club members, Don eventually surrendered. The golf clubs were double-parked, and Don was back in the saddle — well, at least back in the arena!

Specialising initially in showjumping, Don quickly became a favourite among the club's young riders. Children who once declared, "My horse won't jump!" or "I'm too scared!" were soon asking, "Can we do jumping first?" and "Can you put them up a bit higher?"

Under his patient guidance and encouragement, the confidence and ability of both horses and riders have flourished. Don has since expanded his coaching to include flatwork and sporting, and even put on a campdrafting exhibition at the local show, just to prove he hasn't lost his touch!

Alongside his wife Trish, Don has become a much-loved part of the Tenterfield Pony Club community, regularly attending social gatherings and presentations.

Of course, there has been one unfortunate casualty of Don's return to horses… his golf career!

The local Golf Club members are reportedly less than impressed that Pony Club has taken priority over his handicap. They've even had to find themselves a new President thanks to his renewed equestrian commitments! After more than 40 years away from horses due to business commitments, Don has shown that once Pony Club gets into your blood, it never really leaves.

Pony Club NSW extends a huge thank you to Don Phelan for his dedication, generosity and the incredible difference he continues to make to Tenterfield Pony Club.

And to Trish, thank you for sharing Don with Pony Club. We're sorry about the retirement plans… but we think he's exactly where he belongs! 💙🐴⛳

🌟 The Pony Club Challenge!

At your next rally day or competition, think about how you prepare your horse.

Can you explain to your instructor why you chose your warm-up routine?

Here's the challenge — don't just watch the clock, learn to recognise when your horse is physically and mentally ready to work!

🏆 Great Riders Put Their Horses First!

Good horsemanship isn't just about winning ribbons. It's about preparing your horse properly, recognising their needs and looking after them before, during and after every ride.

Because looking after your horse isn't just part of riding — it's the most important part! 🐴💙

Horse Comes First – Pony Club NSW's 7 Pillars of Horsemanship.



Are You Giving Your Horse the Warm-Up They Deserve?

We all love getting into the fun part of riding — whether that's jumping, dressage, sporting or games. But before you ask your horse to perform, have you given their body enough time to prepare

Just like athletes, horses need time to warm up their muscles, loosen their joints and prepare mentally for exercise.

A good warm-up isn't wasted riding time — it's an important part of keeping your horse healthy, comfortable and happy!

🐴 Why Is Warming Up So Important?

A gradual warm-up helps to:
✅ Increase blood flow to working muscles.
✅ Prepare muscles, tendons and joints for exercise.
✅ Allow your horse to find their balance and rhythm.
✅ Give your horse time to settle and focus.
✅ Prepare their body for more demanding movements.

Rushing straight into fast work or jumping can place unnecessary strain on your horse's body.

⏱️ The First 10–15 Minutes Matter!

A good warm-up generally begins with plenty of relaxed walking, allowing your horse to stretch and move freely.
Gradually introduce trot, changes of direction, large circles and simple transitions before moving into more demanding work.
Remember: Every horse is different! A young horse, an older horse and a fit competition horse may all need different warm-up routines.

💙 Don't Forget the Cool-Down!

Finishing your last jump or dressage movement doesn't mean your horse's work is finished!

After exercise, gradually reduce the intensity and allow your horse to walk until their breathing and heart rate are returning towards normal.

In hot weather, additional cooling may be needed to help prevent overheating.

🔍 Are You Listening to Your Horse?

Not every horse feels the same every day. Pay attention to how your horse moves and behaves during your warm-up.
Ask yourself:

- Is my horse moving freely and comfortably?
- Are they relaxed and responding to my aids?
- Does something feel different from our usual rides?
- Am I giving them enough time to prepare?

If your horse seems unusually stiff, uncomfortable or lame, don't simply ride through it. Stop and seek appropriate advice.

🌟 The Pony Club Challenge!

At your next jumping lesson, ask your instructor to set up two ground poles at a suitable distance.

Can you:

- Count your horse's canter strides between the poles?
- Maintain the same number of strides each time?
- Adjust your canter to add a stride while staying balanced?
-

Start with poles before progressing to small fences under your instructor's guidance.

🏆 Great Showjumpers Don't Just Count Strides – They Feel Them!

Understanding distances takes practice, patience and time in the saddle.

The more you develop your rhythm, balance and feel, the more confident you'll become around a course.

Because raising the bar isn't just about jumping higher — it's about learning to ride smarter! 🐴💙

Raising the Bar – Pony Club NSW's 7 Pillars of Horsemanship.



🐴 Showjumping – Understanding Striding & Distances!

Ever watched a showjumping round and wondered how riders make it look so easy to find the perfect distance to every fence?

It's not just luck! Understanding striding, rhythm and distances is an important part of becoming a confident showjumper.

Whether you're jumping 60cm or 1.20m, learning to recognise and ride distances can make all the difference to your round!

🐎 What Is a Stride?

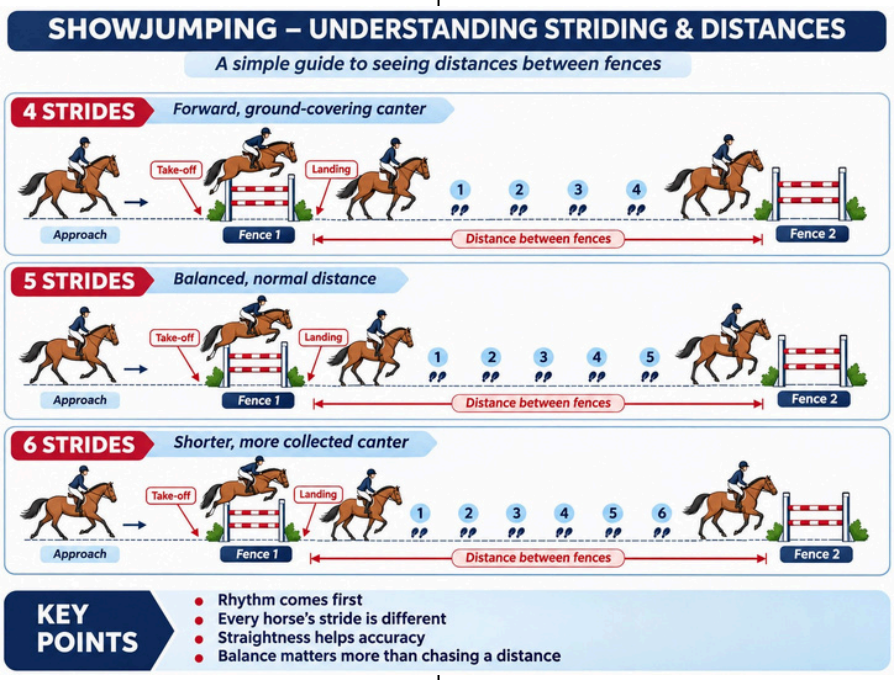
A stride is one complete cycle of your horse's movement. In showjumping, we often talk about the number of canter strides between two fences.

A related distance might be designed for four, five or six strides, depending on the horse and course.

Remember: Not every horse has the same stride length! A smaller pony may need more strides than a larger horse to cover the same distance.

📏 Learning to See a Distance

Finding a good take-off distance starts well before you reach the fence!
✅ Maintain your rhythm – A consistent canter makes distances easier to judge.
✅ Look ahead – Focus on your line and where you're going.
✅ Know your horse's stride – Understand how much ground your horse naturally covers.
✅ Stay balanced – Avoid leaning forward or chasing a distance.
✅ Ride straight – A straight approach helps maintain balance and accuracy.



🎯 Adding or Leaving Out a Stride

Ever heard your instructor say, "Add a stride!" or "Move up for the five!"?

Adding a stride means shortening and balancing your horse's canter to fit an extra stride into a related distance.

Leaving out a stride means riding a more forward, ground-covering canter to take fewer strides.

Neither is automatically better! The right choice depends on your horse, the course and maintaining balance and control.

💙 The Secret Is in the Canter!

One of the most important lessons in showjumping is that the quality of your canter determines the quality of your approach.

A balanced, adjustable and consistent canter makes finding distances much easier.
Don't sacrifice rhythm and balance just to chase the perfect stride!

🌟 The Pony Club Challenge!

At your next rally day or dressage lesson, practise riding a 20-metre circle using arena markers to help you stay accurate.

Ask yourself:

- Is my circle actually round?
- Am I maintaining the same rhythm all the way around?
- Is my horse bending correctly without falling in or drifting out?
-

Ask your instructor to watch from the ground — you might be surprised by what your circle actually looks like!

🏆 Perfect the Basics!

A well-ridden circle demonstrates your ability to maintain rhythm, balance, bend and accuracy — all essential foundations of good dressage.

Because in dressage, it's not just about going around in circles — it's about making every circle count! 🐴💙

Taking It All in Your Stride – Pony Club NSW's 7 Pillars of Horsemanship.



🐴 Dressage Tip – Are You Riding a Circle or an Egg?

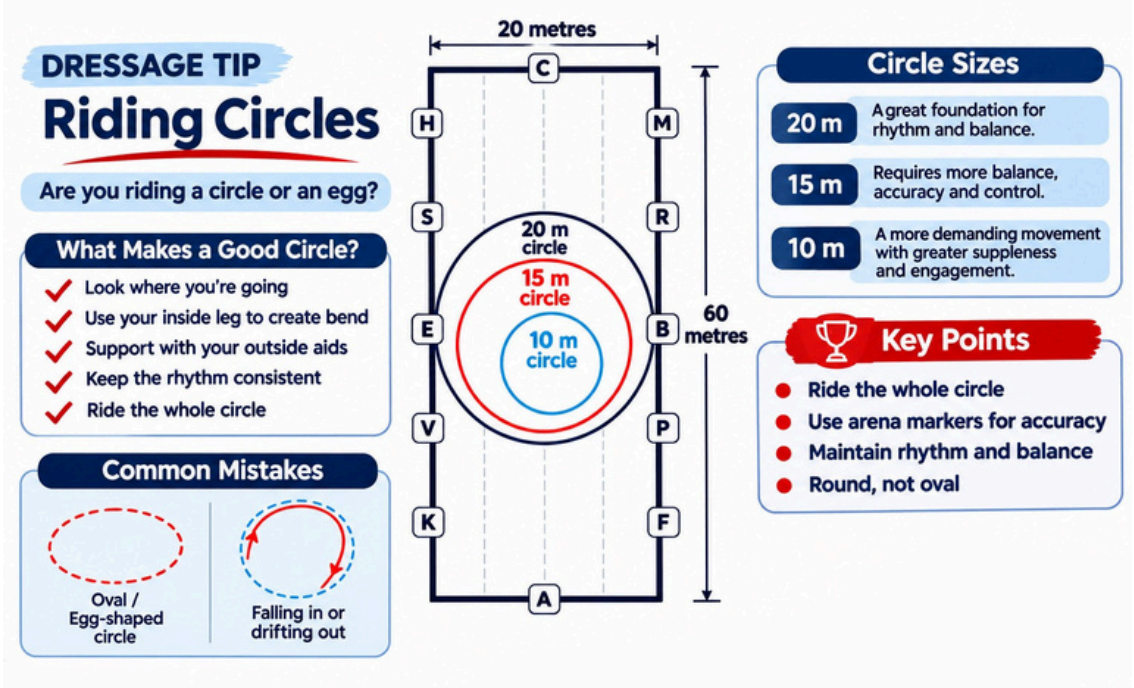
Circles might look like one of the easiest movements in dressage, but riding a perfectly round, balanced and accurate circle takes more skill than you might think! Whether you're riding a 20-metre circle in a Preliminary test or a smaller circle at a higher level, accuracy, rhythm and balance are the keys to success!

🎯 What Makes a Good Circle?
A correct circle should be round, symmetrical and ridden at a consistent rhythm.
✅ Look where you're going – Turn your head and eyes towards the line you want to ride.
✅ Use your inside leg – Encourage your horse to bend around your inside leg while maintaining impulsion.
✅ Support with your outside aids – Your outside rein and leg help control the shoulders, hindquarters and size of the circle.
✅ Maintain your rhythm – Avoid slowing down or rushing as you turn.
✅ Ride the whole circle – Don't cut corners or allow your circle to become an oval!

📏 Do You Know Your Circle Sizes?
In dressage, you'll commonly be asked to ride circles of different sizes.

- 20-metre circle: A great foundation for developing rhythm, balance and correct bend.
- 15-metre circle: Requires more balance, accuracy and control.
- 10-metre circle: A more demanding movement requiring greater suppleness, engagement and balance.

Remember, a smaller circle isn't necessarily better! Your horse must be physically ready and balanced enough to perform the movement correctly.











🎓 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









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!























🏆 2026 STATE SHOWJUMPING & JUMPING EQUITATION CHAMPIONSHIPS WRAP-UP

🐴 Three Days of Jumping, Determination & Pony Club Spirit in Gundagai!

What a weekend! The 2026 Pony Club NSW State Showjumping & Jumping Equitation Championships, held from 30 October to 1 November at Gundagai Showground, certainly gave everyone plenty to remember!

Riders from across New South Wales travelled to Gundagai for three days of competition, showcasing their skills, determination and partnerships with their horses.

☀️🌧️⛈️ **Four Seasons in One Weekend!**
If there was one thing we couldn't predict at Gundagai, it was the weather!
From scorching heat to rain, thunderstorms and even hail, Mother Nature certainly threw everything she had at us!

Saturday's storm caused significant delays to the competition, and unfortunately, our planned Halloween games and activities had to be cancelled.
But despite the challenging conditions and interruptions, the show went on!

A huge thank you to our competitors, families, volunteers and officials for their patience, flexibility and positive attitudes as everyone worked together to keep the Championships running.

🏇 **Showjumping & Jumping Equitation**
Across the three days, riders put their skills to the test in both Showjumping and Jumping Equitation.

From carefully ridden approaches and balanced rounds to exciting jump-offs, the Showjumping competition highlighted the dedication and training of our young riders.

In Jumping Equitation, competitors demonstrated their position, effectiveness, rhythm and control, showcasing the importance of strong foundations and correct riding techniques.

It was fantastic to see riders supporting one another, celebrating achievements and gaining valuable experience at State Championship level.

🏆 **Celebrating Presentation & Sportsmanship!**
A special congratulations to our Zones recognised for their outstanding presentation and sportsmanship throughout the Championships!

💙 Zone 8 – Showjumping Presentation & Sportsmanship Award.
Zone 8 Overall Highest point scoring zone.

❤️ Zone 10 – Jumping Equitation Presentation & Sportsmanship Award.
Zone 16 Overall highest point scoring zone.

These are incredibly well-deserved achievements, recognising the pride, respect, teamwork and positive attitudes that make Pony Club so special.

Congratulations to everyone involved in both Zones. You should be extremely proud!

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2026 State Championships Coming up this month





💙 A Huge Thank You!
Events like these simply wouldn't happen without the dedication of our wonderful Pony Club community.

A huge thank you to Zone 2, the organising committee, judges, technical delegates, course designers, stewards, volunteers and everyone working behind the scenes to bring the Championships together.

We also thank the parents, families, coaches and supporters who travelled from across NSW and helped make the weekend possible.

🌟 **Congratulations to All Competitors!**
Congratulations to every rider who represented their Club and Zone at the Championships, and a special congratulations to our Champions, Reserve Champions and placegetters!

Whether you came home with a ribbon, achieved a personal best, completed your first State Championship or simply gained valuable experience, you should be proud of your efforts.

The weather may have tested us, but the determination, teamwork and Pony Club spirit certainly shone through!

Thank you, Gundagai, for a memorable weekend of jumping, friendships and a few unexpected weather adventures! 💙❤️

A huge thank you to our wonderful sponsors for their generous support of the 2026 State Showjumping & Jumping Equitation Championships! 💙❤️
We extend our sincere appreciation to Saddleworld for providing the saddlecloths for our Reserve Champions, Rodney's Photography for capturing all the action through photography and video coverage, HorseWyse Magazine for supplying our placegetters' prizes, Kohnke's Own for the Stable Showdown prizes, and Animi Equine for our fantastic event shirts and merchandise.
Your generosity and continued support help make our State Championships such memorable experiences for our riders. We are incredibly grateful to have you all involved in supporting the next generation of equestrians! 🐴🏆

🏆 **View the full 2026 Championship Results:**
https://eventsecretary.com.au/live/22279/results





🏆 SYDNEY ROYAL EASTER SHOW 2027 – ENTRIES NOW OPEN! 🐴🎡

Your Chance to Ride at the Royal!
The excitement is building for the 2027 Sydney Royal Easter Show, and we're encouraging as many Pony Club NSW members as possible to get involved in this fantastic opportunity!

Competing at Sydney Royal is an incredible experience, giving our young riders the chance to showcase their skills, represent their Clubs and Zones, and compete at one of Australia's most iconic agricultural shows.

Entries are NOW OPEN and will close in January 2027, so it's time to start planning!
📅 Important Competition Dates
Monday 29 March 2027
🐎 Rider in Action
Tuesday 30 March 2027
🏇 Area Team Sporting – Contact your Zone regarding Area selections.
🏆 Show Riding – Including Rider, Pairs and Team of Four classes.
🌟 Horsemanship – Please note there will be a few changes to the 2026 format, and entries may be limited.

💙 **How Do I Get Involved?**
Members interested in competing should contact their Zone now to register their interest and find out about selection processes.
Zones can begin organising their tryouts, selections and approvals in preparation for the event.

Members wishing to enter individual classes may do so, provided they have received permission from their Zone.

Attention Zones: Stay tuned for further communication from Beck regarding the process for submitting Pairs and Team of Four entries. In the meantime, Zones are encouraged to commence their selection processes and approvals.

🌟 **Don't Miss Your Chance!**
Whether you're hoping to ride at Sydney Royal for the first time or you're returning for another year, this is a wonderful opportunity to gain experience, create memories and proudly represent the Pony Club community. We would love to see as many Pony Club NSW members as possible participating in 2027! Speak to your Zone, start preparing and get those entries organised before the January closing date! 🐴💙❤️



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: Kohnke's Own®

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!