



Mt Gravatt District Horse and Pony Club Newsletter

April, May & June 2011

Volume 4, Issue 4

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Event Nominations:

forestry@pacific.net.au
rodebm@optusnet.com.au

PCAQ : www.pcaq.asn.au

EFA: www.efa.com.au

www.nominate.com.au

Contact Us:

www.mtgravattponyclub.com



Welcome

The winter months have set in quickly, so too is the season. Time to rug up yourselves & the Ponies. Roll on the warmer weather!!!! We also wish our State Championship Qualifying Members all the best for the Dressage, Combined Training & Horse Trials (ODE). Best of Luck to Rachel Godsall, Jess Weiss, Sarah Weiss & Ellie Wade!! Also congratulations to Sarah Weiss who has made it into the RNA showjumping team for 2011 riding Capella (Go the ponies!!!).

Committee Positions:-

Your Pony Club Needs You!!!

We would still love to fill the Secretary Role, so please feel free to let the Committee know if you are interested in finding out more or help out with the Role.

Our Club Has been Broken into Again!!

We have been unfortunately targeted for a Break & Enter (x 2) back on the 26th March with our Ride-On Mower, general Maintenance Equipment amongst many other tangible Club items Stolen. On the night of 26th June we have been hit again!! Please be vigilant in observing any suspicious behaviour & ensure all items are stored & locked in a safe manner.

Date Claimers

Please refer to our Website for Calender Dates. We will endeavour to keep it updated as Club Activities are booked & Confirmed

Committee Meeting every 3rd Wednesday of the month
Next meeting 22.6.11 (postponed from 15.6.11)
Followed by 20.07.11

Muster 4th Sunday of the month. Next muster 26.06.11
Mini muster 2nd Saturday of the month.
Next mini muster 9.07.11, Seniors Muster TBA

Mt Gravatt HPC - Members Dressage Day - 24th July

Dressage Test Book (2005), can be downloaded from the PCAQ Website under Rule Books. Nomination Details can be found on our Website.

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Muster News

Thanks go to our Instructors Kym Luis, Clare Fowler & Lara Fowler for the June Mini Muster & Rob Harrison, Amy Godsall as well as our Perennial Linda Udell, for the June Muster. Without people such as these we wouldn't be able to run the Musters. Many Thanks to Eddy Foster for organising the Desensitisation Equipment, not only did the White Group get to have some fun with their Ponies, but All Groups as well!! We look as though we have some budding Cowboys with their talented Lasso Skills!

Chief Instructors Report

Hi Everyone

Here we are another month or 3 has gone - they are flying by, I can't keep up. So many more things to fit in this year, we can all look forward to an exciting time. We are going to have a Dressage Ribbon day, a Hunter trial and Show Jumping Equitation day.

What a fantastic day we had on Saturday 14th May, considering the weather had been so wet and cold through the week but on the day the sun shone and we all had a terrific time at our Gymkhana! Many thanks goes again to all the diehard helpers that never fail to deliver!! Wow thank you to all the NEW HELPERS. Without you, well you know what would happen, so thank you, thank you, thank you! A very special thank you must also go to Rob Harrison, our Coursebuilder / Judge on the day... thank you Rob, We appreciate it very much.

I was very proud of everyone who competed, you know, these days are all about having a go and learning as much as you can.

Unfortunately the weather was against us for the scheduled trail ride at the Koala Park on Sunday the 22nd May.

On the 24th July we are hosting the Members Ribbon Dressage Day - this is going to be a day that our members can put their skills into practice and then go and compete out alongside other Clubs. Keep an eye out for the "Flyer" and I am always available should you have any questions.

On the Saturday before the Members Dressage Day we would also like some help setting up 2 or 3 dressage arenas. Please email me if you can help.

In the meantime, look after your ponies and I will catch you at the next muster.

Happy Riding

Cheers Linda

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PRESENTATION

Time to dig out the saddle oil and nugget your boots! From now on, all riders will be assessed and marked out of 10 for presentation during gear check.

Make sure you :-

- Have a clean, well groomed horse with picked out feet & oiled; also a brushed main and tail
- Have cleaned and oiled gear that fits correctly and is safe
- Pay special attention to bits, girths, stirrups and your boots
- Make sure **you** are wearing the correct uniform and that it is clean and tidy.

SAFETY

Nothing is more important than the safety of our members and their horses. We can not stress enough the importance of the rules being adhered to:-

- Never leave any horses tied to an unhitched float. If you do need to unhitch your float please move your horse to the pens.
- Dogs are banned from the grounds during musters. This includes competitions, weekends, camp-outs etc. All Dog Manure to be removed from the Canteen Area ASAP, otherwise our Dog Policy will need to be further reviewed (with the direction of No Dogs Allowed - No Exceptions). We do not want this to become a reality. Please keep your furry friends at home during Musters. We have had Incidents with Dogs getting loose & causing Risk to our Riders during Musters.
- Keep horses at a safe distance when riding.
- All riders are strongly recommended to wear helmets at all times when around horses which includes tacking, grooming, leading and bathing.

Uniforms

Uniform Officer - **Deb Newman mob: 0423 536 477**

Our uniform is compulsory for all members. It consists of the blue Club Polo Shirt and beige Jodhpurs for regular musters and a Club Formal Mitchell blue dress shirt, white tie with beige jodhpurs for competitions days. Our equine friends must be wearing the white saddlecloth with Mt Gravatt embroidered onto it. There are plenty of polo shirts for sale at the Canteen. Orders have been placed for some Size 14 Formal Shirts ETA still to be confirmed. White Zipper Ties, Full & Pony Size saddle Cloths are in stock & now available.

Please remember that from 1st January 2011 per the PCAQ Rules, it will be compulsory to wear a body protector in the Cross Country phase of any Horse Trials or Hunter Trials Event.

Kids, Start saving your Birthday money, (or ask to do some jobs for Pocket Money), to start saving for your Investment in a Body Protector!

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Events

Mt Gravatt HPC - Members Dressage Day - Entries Close 20th July

Please check the websites for any Events & their closing dates. All PCAQ Event Nominations are required to go through the Club Secretary. To ensure payment & entry are received by the closing dates. You will need to email the Club Noms Secretary at least 4-5 days before the listed closing dates. Include all relevant information such as the class, the (official) name of your horse, Your PIC Number and any other relevant details per the Entry Form requirements. For information of how to get, or what a PIC Number is, please refer to the March Newsletter. This is a Qld Govt Biosecurity Requirement for Event Organisers. Any Events that require travel to a Tick Free Zone, a Dip/Spray will need to be booked and a certificate will need to be carried with you & kept with your Waybill (& Horse) at all times.

For Events Calender check for updates on:-

- www.mtgravattponyclub.com - go to Calender
- www.pcaq.asn.au - go to Events Calender
- www.nominate.com.au - click on equestrian

Open Events are now not advertised on the PCAQ Website, please check with the Local Club Websites, or Our Pony Club Website www.mtgravattponyclub.com Calender. If anyone hears of any Open Event to put on our Website Calender, please email mgdhpwebrequests@hotmail.com.

Getting started

All riders are to lead their horses through the white gate to the area in front of the clubhouse to present for gear check. You may present from 8.30 onwards. After successful gear check you will be given your hat cover for your assigned group and you may then warm up your horse. (gently – walking and trotting only - except for red, blue and purple who may do some controlled cantering as part of their warm up).

At 9am (or 1pm for Sat musters) you need to line up in a troop line to begin the day. All lessons and groups will commence at this time and if you are late you will miss out! Any late-comers need to report **un-mounted** to the chief instructor or the lead instructor for a gear check joining in. With the shortage of Volunteers for Musters it would be helpful for members to bring their own water bottles.

Grounds Report

When riding on the grounds please ensure that all safety procedures are implemented. Any Riding equipment used in the sand arena must be put back after use.

We are now with Mowing Equipment & a replacement Whipper Snipper. Many Thanks to Eddy for organising the replacements. (NB Recent Theft - Will need another Whipper Snipper.....Arrgh!! Curse the Thieves!!!)

If you think any maintenance issues needs to be brought to our attention please contact the Committee. Again a friendly reminder for Members to assist with the ongoing maintenance of the Cross Country Jumps.

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Muster Days

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for Muster days, don't hesitate to speak up, if there is something that you would like to do, or learn please ask, we want to make it fun for everyone.

Thank You

To our wonderful Canteen Helpers & BBQ Cooks that we get to have lovely refreshments to keep us going throughout the day.

A special Thanks to Peter Eggersdoff, Jenny Pugh, Kerry Udell for Cooking & Preparing at our Sun Muster. Thanks to Ross & Deb Mountford, Cherie Contessa, Peter & Sally Weiss at our earlier Musters & Thanks to Peter & Deb Jamieson for purchasing the Food & Supplies. Without these wonderful people we wouldn't get fed.

New Helpers are always warmly welcomed!!!

General Tips

- Always approach your horse from the left side near the shoulder.
- Try not to always 'bribe' your horse as it may lead to biting and bossiness if they think they should always get a treat.
- If the horse is not stabled, do not wash him too often in the winter as this strips their coat of natural water resistant oils.
- If you ride a lot during winter it may be a good idea to partially clip your horses 'shaggy' coat. However if you do this you will need to make sure they are rugged properly so as to not suffer from the cold.
- Have you checked your helmet lately? Is it in good condition and less than 5 years old? If not, you should replace it. You should also replace your helmet immediately any time you have a fall where the helmet impacts the ground.

Please note that only new Members, and Members who have not done their working bee hours in 2010 need to pay the Service Levy Fee again in 2011.

Unfortunately, you will forfeit your levy fee if your working bee/ canteen hours are not met in 2011.