

# ***Presidents Report 2010***

We have had a fantastic year at Arcadia Pony Club in 2010. It has been a year where we have taken the successes from past years and built on them to improve our club further. We have had a terrific committee this year who each have implemented something new or improved in some way.

I want to share with our members the activity your committee was up to throughout the year as well as our achievements for 2010.

We will shortly be calling for nominations for 2011 committee. All positions will be declared open and if you think you would like to be part of a fun committee please put your nomination forward.

## **What made our club special in 2010?**

### ***Fun and Friendship***

This is still at heart of everything we do at Arcadia Pony Club. I love seeing the fun the various groups are having with each other on rally days as they rotate around the instruction groups. Then at



lunchtime, the children sitting together on the grassy bank enjoying their lunch together as well chatting, laughing and just being children is a great sight.

Some of our competitions this year were open or invitation events and receiving the thank you notes and phone calls from the outside competitors on what fun and friendly events we have run was very rewarding. I think this is testament to how we have all conducted ourselves as a club this year.

### ***Competitive success at State Level***

Also this year our riders qualified for a record number of State Pony Club Championships. We had representatives at State Sporting, State Show riding, State Show Jumping Equitation and State Mounted Games.

To qualify to compete as a Zone 23 representative is significant but we would like to recognize the families who put in considerable time and cost to travel to these events representing our club and Zone. We would like to thank the Mann family, Reen family and the Raheb family for putting Arcadia back on the map as a competitive club in 2010.



## ***Jamboree successes***



Proof that Arcadia is producing good all-round riders this year we scored a Champion or Reserve Champion in each of the age groups our club was entered into in 2010. What was particularly pleasing was Arcadia winning the Australian Horse and Rider Trophy awarded to the club with the top scoring 5 riders overall.

## ***Volunteers***

2010 we certainly turned the corner in terms of those volunteering their time to the club to make it the great club it is. It was particularly pleasing in some of our competitions to actually have an oversubscription of volunteers.

Many hands make light work and in 2011 I hope that we can continue the willingness with which our members and parents offer their assistance to make the rally days and competitions as well as the general operation of our club **smooth**.



## ***Now a few words about what your committee has been up to:***

***Vice President – Paul Cairns*** as well as volunteering his EFA NCAS Coaching skills to Pony Club and instructing our members he was keen to introduce an Annual Pony Club Camp to Arcadia Pony Club.

The challenge we had is that we cannot use our RSF grounds to hold a camp where Ponies and members alike can stay onsite. It is against our lease and council conditions.

Two venues alternative venues were investigated, Bathurst and Horserworld at Maralya. Both worthy venues but feedback from members was for Bathurst the travel presented a challenge for some and for Horserworld due to the hiring fees made it too costly for those families with more than one participant.



There was much disappointment when the camp had to be cancelled. For 2011 we will consider the club funding the hiring fees of Horserworld to make it more affordable for members so that we can get a Pony Club Camp re-established at Arcadia Pony Club.

**Treasurer, Simone Church** reports that we have finished with a healthy bank balance for 2010 and have a strong financial base to start from in 2011.

Steady competition income as well as our canteen profit contribution continues to add to our bank balance month after month. Detail of our financials is in the Treasurers report and will be shared at the AGM.

Running our competitions as open or invitational events as well as strong turnout from our own club has added more to our competition profitability and canteen profitability on these days than in previous years.



**Club Secretary, Darlis Reen** has been extra busy as not only is she our Secretary and our first point of contact for all things Arcadia Pony Club but she is also the Zone 23 Secretary. Our members may not have visibility of what benefits this has brought to our club already by Darlis volunteering for this role.

Arcadia again has a strong voice and a say on how things are developed at Zone level. This includes making sure there are adequate opportunities for our members who are new to competing at Zone events to be included. So no longer to you have to think that Zone events don't apply to you!

Darlis goes about this work quietly and without fuss but there are many hours of meetings and debate happening at Zone level that Darlis attends to put forward the Arcadia needs and requirements. A result of such was the introduction of the Novice rings at Jamboree. There was terrific feedback on the success of this from all the clubs on this initiative.

**Membership Secretary, Sharon Bourne** has been working on increasing our membership base, fielding all the membership enquiries and as well as managing all the administration that goes with PC NSW in getting our memberships ship shape.

Some of the new members have transferred from other clubs in order to take advantage of our wonderful facilities and varied instruction programs and we are also welcoming back members who have been absent for a couple of years and are now rejoining.





### ***Chief Instructor and Club Captain Leanne***

***Davies*** has introduced a varied new program of instruction utilizing all of the skills of our seven PC NCAS qualified instructors for our members at our instructional rally days as well as some well run and very professional competitions for 2010.

We have had a record number of Certificate achievements in 2010. The PC Certificate work has been interwoven to all of our lessons delivered at Instructional Rally days as well as specific curriculum coverage at our unmounted rally days to ensure all our members get the best opportunity to attain their chosen Certificate level this year.

The NCAS coaching programme requires formal lesson planning and alignment to Pony Club Certificate syllabus. In addition the instructors group is responsible for planning and running our competition days in accordance with Pony Club rules and guidelines. There is a lot of work this group do in the background as well as simply instructing.

***Uniforms and Trophies, Joyce Beardsell*** has been very busy updating the Arcadia “look” to improve both the comfort of the riders and make us look very professional and smart.



Our new wool vests are a cooler and very smart alternative to our jumpers for formal uniform.

The new polo shirts are made from Cool Max materials to keep the children cool on those hot summer days. The red with the crispness of white and black of our colours look stunning.





Joyce has also done a fantastic job of organizing all of our trophies. We now have all our trophies either repaired or replaced and on display for the world to see on our website.

The Honor roll is now also now on our website so that everyone can see the recipients of all our lovely trophies. This is a great way to showcase our history and the achievements of past and present riders. In addition there is information detailing the Perpetual Trophies awarded over and above the various disciplines each year.

Have a look at <http://www.arcadiaponyclub.org.au/results.php5> to see all our trophies, the honor roll and the award criteria for the perpetual trophies.

***Canteen, Katie Breatnach*** – as well as keeping us well fed as well as being the most consistent contributor to our profitability is Katie Breatnach running our Canteen. Thanks to Katie we have quality food from the moment we arrive and right through the day.

Katie is a whiz at calculating our consumption of food so that we have just enough for everyone minimizing waste and maximizing our profits.

The number of hours put in by our Katie and her team of volunteers is larger than most would appreciate. The shopping, baking, soup making, cooking at the barbeque, set up and clean up as well as the actual hours spent in the canteen for our benefit can be excessive.

Volunteering just a few hours of your time on a rally day or competition day to assist in the canteen is always well received and appreciated.



**Fundraising** managed by **Alison**

**Cairns** this year was about getting some additional funds together to purchase portable Cross Country jumps for both rally days and competitions.



We raised some funds from the eBay-a-thon and a big thanks to the Beardsell, Sturgess, Cairns, Hayton, Taylor and Raheb families for their generous contributions. All goods sold well on eBay with higher than expected takings.

We sold our old set of show-jumps as they can no longer be used for competitions under PC NSW rules to our members. We should have the most competent show jumpers of Zone 23 now that everyone has show jumps at home to practice over.

We have finished the year with \$2500 in our fundraising account ready to purchase some cross country jumps for 2011.



**Website** managed by **Helen Lamont** has been a great success in getting the message out about the changes at Arcadia Pony Club.

The advantage is that our members email is no longer clogged with APC trivia. All the Flyers and entry details are loaded onto the site as they are approved by the Committee. Our results and photos as well as our PR press stories are loaded up immediately after our competitions. The forms and information on the site is the most up to date.

Thanks to the families that provided photos and reports for the website. This is our window to the world and keeping it fresh and updated gives us many hits per week.

**Publicity** has also been handled by **Alison Cairns** and many of you will have seen the regular articles in Hills Rural News as well as the Hawkesbury Gazette.



The purpose of these pieces is to show the focus on quality instruction, strong role models and children having fun with their ponies. It is nice for the children to get public recognition from the community for their efforts as well.

We also had a very successful stall at the Arcadia Public School market day manned by our children looking super smart and exceptionally cute in their uniforms. This day generated a lot of interest and awareness in the community of the quality of our club.

The enquiry level since this event has been high and we are looking forward to welcoming some new members in 2011 as a result of this.

There has also been a brochure created to be circulated out in the community through the equestrian related outlets in January to attract new members in 2011.

So that's it for 2010.....what a year!

Don't forget to put your nominations in for 2011 committee before the AGM in January. Being a committee member is a great way to put all your great ideas on how to improve our club into practice.

Wishing all of our members and families a special holiday season break and really look forward to seeing everyone again for a cracker of a 2011.

**Mark Raheb**  
**President – Arcadia Pony Club**