

Presidents half yearly report – 2011

Can you believe it is June already and we are half way through the Pony Club year?

Much has happened already this year at Arcadia Pony Club and there is still so much more planned, so I thought I would share with all of you the highlights we are most proud of, and plans for further highlights.

First of all, a big thankyou for the volunteer effort by all our members and families at the Zone Equitation day back in March. Whilst it was incredibly hard work and a long hot day it is by far the most professional and profitable event Arcadia Pony Club has run to date.

The phone calls and note of congratulations we received from competitors, parents and even judges post the event was overwhelming. Everyone had a great and fantastic day at a very professionally run event.

As the running of the Zone Equitation really was a whole of club effort we want to put the profits from this event back into the club this year so that ALL members receive the benefit of their hard work.

The committee has proposed for every discipline possible we engage an external instructor or clinician funded out of the Zone Equitation profits to improve the childrens skill levels. These clinics will be free of charge to our members and will include all levels of rider.

In addition, the past two closed events have been fee free and we would like to continue this for the balance of the year funds permitting as a thank you.

The recent Showjumping Clinic run by Lou Lou McInerney received excellent feedback. Leanne is going to continue to source and engage other well known coaches for other disciplines for us.



Successes:



Wow – our successes have been many this year already.

Firstly the increased turnout by Arcadia Pony Club at Zone events this year has not gone unnoticed and neither has our proliferation of Champions and Reserve Champions. In Zone 23 – typically we are picking up either Champion or Reserve Champ in each age group we have entrants in.

What is seriously impressive though is where we are competing out of Zone and picking up Champion and Reserve Champions overall. The Zone 26 Showjumping held in May at Hills District grounds in Castle Hill we had Lucy awarded E grade Champ and Macy awarded D grade Champ – over and above ALL of the Zone 26 riders.

At the Zone 26 sporting earlier in the year Anneliese and Macy won Champion and Reserve champion in their age groups, again ahead of the Zone 26 riders.

At State Dressage in January, Rachael got a Second in 1D , and a fourth in the 1C, in the under 13 years, with a large competition of 70 riders in her group. Placing her 4th overall in the State of NSW PCA.

Well done girls! What ambassadors you are for our club and Zone.

We also had high representation and great successes at the Sydney Royal this year. Arcadia was well represented and came home with the results as well . Well done to the Breatnach, Reen and Raheb families for all the effort and time required to qualify to get to Sydney Royal standard.

Over the last six months the amount of children, who have gone from beginners to capable and independent riders, children who were ungraded, that are now graded is evidence enough, to show that our instructors and rally days are not just fun, but productive.

Instructional Rally Days

We welcome Shelley to our team of instructors this year. Shelley has deep Pony Club experience herself from Pony Club Queensland. She is also a competitor in dressage and showjumping so has lots of great experience to share with our members.

We are very fortunate to have so many qualified Pony Club instructors available to us. Our instructor, rider ratio would have to be one of the best in the Pony Club NSW if not the best.

Being able to split groups into 5-6 riders maximum gives everyone more personal time with the instructor in each lesson. I am sure this is having a positive impact on our results and the quality of riding our members are showing at competitions.



New cross country jumps

All that terrific fundraising you all contributed to last year has been turned into new portable cross-country jumps which are due to be delivered by end of June. We have coming:-

- New rustic rails
- Tyres
- Arrowhead jump
- Hedges
- Gates
- Barrels



We have chosen jumps that can be altered in height to give everyone an opportunity to have x-country lessons and gain valuable experience in riding such fences.

These jumps can also be used under our showjumps to make our courses more challenging and give our members experience in jumping “spooky” type fences.

Whats coming up?

Well a lot more of the same leading up to Jamboree again at the end of the year - more instructional rally days with fun and interesting lessons, more comps and more clinics.

Above all though – more fun and friendship. The morale of the club is high and it is a very collaborative, collegiate club now making events and rally days easy to run. The volume of smiles on the faces of children, ponies, instructors and parents faces is really rewarding. The willingness of everyone to volunteer their time and skills is what makes Arcadia Pony Club a stand out club.



I want to say a big thank you to all of you for a great first half of 2011. If you have suggestions or on how we can keep building our success as a club please come and let me know. Lets keep having fun.

Mark