

# Fassifern Horse & Pony Club

## **Introduction:**

This introduction has been designed to assist new members and to update existing members on what our club and the Pony Club Association of Queensland (PCAQ) can offer.

The pony club movement was started in Great Britain in 1928 when “Institute of the Horse” started a scheme of sub-branches in various parts of Britain to encourage children to ride. Pony club is now a very large youth organization operating all over the world and exists in all Australian states. In Queensland, the governing body is referred to as the PCAQ (Pony Club Association of QLD).

The objects of the PCAQ are:

- To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding.
- To provide instruction in riding and horse mastership and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.
- To promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline

The Pony Club Association wants to have young people taught the many aspects of horsemanship so that they will become the capable horsemen and women of tomorrow. It is important that members enjoy themselves and make new friends with people who share a love of horses. The age of pony club members ranges from three to eighty plus years. Most members are active riders although many simply enjoy the social aspects of their local club.

**History:** The Fassifern Horse And pony Club was founded in 1960 and, for most of its life, have operated from the Boonah Show grounds. Our clubhouse began its life as the Teviotville Lutheran Church. It was later moved to Boonah. It was purchased fro removal by CS Energy, Swanbank in 1997, but when this company decided that they could not use if for its intended purpose, it was donated to the Fassifern Club and was moved down the hill to its present site where it has been extensively renovated.

**Management:**

Fassifern Horse & Pony Club committee meet on the third Thursday night of each month (February to November) at 7.30pm at the clubhouse. All members are encouraged to attend these meetings, although you must be over 18 years of age in order to vote on issues. If you are unable to attend these meetings and have a matter that you wish to be discussed, please contact the club Secretary on [d.mfedrick@bigpond.com](mailto:d.mfedrick@bigpond.com) Contact details for the executive are available under Contacts.

The Pony Club Association of Queensland is divided into regions and zones. Our club is a member of the Southern region and Zone Three. The Zone Three committee is made up of representatives from each club within the zone and meets monthly at Rosewood. They are responsible for informing clubs of issues that have been discussed at a state level and to co-ordinate events within the zone, They are also responsible for the organization of Zone competitions such as Dressage, Combined Training, Show Jumping, One Day Events, Sporting, Camp drafting and Mounted Games.

The State committee runs State Level competition for each of these disciplines every year. Show Jumping and Jumping Equitation Championships are held annually during the Easter school holidays. Dressage, Combined Training and One Day Event championships during the June-July school holidays. Sporting, Mounted Games and Camp draft are held in the September school holidays. These state events are rotated between regions within Queensland and hosted by a different club each year.

## **Membership:**

Membership of Fassifern Horse & Pony Club runs for the calendar year and provides the following:

- Free coaching by the club's trained instructors and use of the club facilities and equipment.
- Proficiency certificate courses "D" through to "A" level.
- Access to local, state, interstate and international competitions.

Fassifern Horse & Pony Club membership fees consist of the PCAQ Affiliation Fee and a club fee per member or family. Affiliation to the PCAQ costs \$40 per riding member and \$10 per social member (This includes the insurance component). The club fee is \$20 per social member, \$40 per individual riding member and \$60 per family. The maximum membership payable is \$300 per family.

Examples of membership fees are:

- Riding member – PCAQ Affiliation \$40, Club Fee \$40, Total \$80
- Social member – PCAQ Affiliation \$10, Club Fee \$20, Total \$30
- Family of 2 riding and 2 social members – PCAQ Affiliation \$100, Club fee \$60, Total \$160

All fees must be paid and membership forms completed prior to the commencement of riding, in order to ensure the rider is covered by PCAQ public liability and accident insurance. There are currently three forms that must be completed; Membership application form, Agreement and Indemnity Form and Medical Form. These forms must be signed by a parent/guardian if the member is under the age of 18 years.

Membership fees are collected by our Secretary (Melanie Fedrick) or Treasurer (Tracey Endres), who on most muster days will be available at 8.45am to collect the fees. The club fee component of membership fees are used to pay the following:

- Zone levy \$3 per member
- Lease of club grounds from the Boonah Show Society
- Insurance of club house contents
- Electricity supply to club house
- Monthly club newsletter
- Replacement and upkeep of equipment

**Instruction:**

Volunteers who are qualified PCAQ instructors conduct instruction at Pony Club muster days. The following is a list of instructors at Fassifern;

Chief Instructor

Margaret Harvey      Level B

Other Instructors

Darryn Fedrick	Level B	Tracy Wall	Level B
Keith Sullivan	Level C	Melanie Fedrick	Level C
Terry O'Brien	Level C	Kerri Tow	Level C
David Betts	Level O	Alison Duke-Gibb	Level O
Angela Watkinson	Level O		

All of these people have been involved with riding and pony club activities for many years. Between them they have extensive knowledge of horse riding, horse mastership, horse handling and care. The areas of expertise covered by these instructors include dressage, hacking, sporting, camp draft, show jumping, eventing, endurance riding, western performance and vaulting – just to name a few!

At muster days, these instructors follow a syllabus of instruction as set out by PCAQ. The syllabus of instruction is based on the attainment of proficiency certificates from “D” through to “A”. Throughout the year, riders work towards obtaining these certificates. This involves both active riding and theory, which will be taught through the year and is assessed by completing a workbook and an end of year exam.

At the start of the year, all riding members are assigned to a group, based on riding ability. Each group will receive instruction on each of the pony club disciplines at musters. If you have any questions or concerns over what is being taught to your group do not hesitate to discuss this with the group's instructor/s or the Chief Instructor.

Fassifern Horse & Pony Club is proud of the diversity of knowledge and experience of their instructors and aim to provide their members with instruction on a range of equestrian activities. Throughout the year, the club will attempt to organize instructors from outside of the club to

provide more detailed instruction through clinics. All members are encouraged to attend these clinics that are staged at minimum cost to members. The club will also arrange demonstrations of other equestrian activities by guests who are experts in their particular discipline.

The club and zone conduct schools throughout the year for Instructors and actively encourage any member to consider becoming an instructor. Please see the club's Chief Instructor Margaret Harvey for further information.

### **Pony Club Musters:**

Fassifern Horse & Pony Club musters are held on the second and fourth Saturday of each month, except if these days clash with other local equestrian events. The \$2 muster fee must be paid at the club house prior to riding. The muster begins at 9am sharp, with all members mounted on their horses in front of the club house. If the grounds are considered too wet for riding or it happens to be raining on a scheduled muster day, members are invited to attend the morning session (without horses). Instructors will provide theory lessons and instructional videos, where possible. If you are unsure of the condition of the grounds please contact one of the executive.

Members are responsible for ensuring that saddles and bridles are correctly fitted and that they are wearing appropriate clothing and shoes for the day. Instructors are always available to advise on the correct fitting of equipment, so don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions. Prior to the commencement of riding for the day, each member will be checked by an instructor to ensure that their equipment adheres to the PCAQ rules. See PCAQ Website for more information.

We appreciate parental assistance throughout the day, especially when setting up for jumping, games etc and to return the equipment at the end of the day. Please do not hesitate to approach your child's instructor and offer assistance wherever possible. Parental or guardian supervision is requested at musters.

If parents are unable to stay, please make prior arrangements with a responsible adult who is staying the entire day to supervise your children. If your child's pony is to be led, it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to do this. Suitable enclosed footwear must be worn by the leader.

The muster program is as follows;

- 9.00-9.15 Gear check and announcements
- 9.15-9.45 Troop drill
- 9.45-10.30 Session One
- 10.30-11.00 Morning Tea
- 11.00-12.30 Session Two
- 12.30-01.30 Lunch
- 1.30-3.00 Session Three

Each group has the opportunity to ride in the enclosed dressage arena. The beginner/lead line group are in the arena for Session One at each muster so that they begin the day in a safe, enclosed area. The other groups then have access to the arena on a rotational basis. Use of the arena at all times other than on muster days must follow the rules as set out in Appendix Five.

### **Club Uniform:**

If you compete at any outside club competition (this includes, gymkhana's, dressage and show jump days), you will be required to wear our formal club uniform. This consists of fawn jodhpurs/breeches, a white long-sleeved shirt, pink flyaway tie and brown elastic sided jodhpur boots with smooth soles. A pink saddlecloth is used and a navy blue V neck jumper. The ties and saddlecloths are available for purchase from our property officer.

### **Competitions:**

Fassifern Horse & Pony Club conducts a number of competitions each year that are open to all members. Competitions being organized for this year include;

- Official Dressage/Combined Training
- Official Show Jump competition
- Gymkhana

Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September

Further details on all of these will be available closer to the competition date. We also encourage members to attend the competitions hosted by other clubs within our zone. Programs and entry forms for these events are posted on a noticeboard at the club house. A full calendar of events

for the state is available on the PCAQ website (Check your monthly newsletter for an updated zone calendar of events).

Some competitions such as Dressage, Show jump and One Day Events require that entries are submitted ten days prior to the competition date, so please check the details on individual programs. These entries must be made through the nominations secretary (Kerri Tow) as a single payment is made per club. See Nominations.

### **Other facilities:**

On muster and competition days, a canteen is operated from the clubhouse. A constant supply of cold and hot drinks, snacks and lunches are available. Our canteen convenor, Barbara Irving would appreciate assistance in the canteen on muster days, particularly during the lunchtime rush!

### **Newsletter:**

The club provides a monthly newsletter, which is available to be picked up on muster days or posted. If you have any information or articles for the newsletter please contact the Editor, Alison Duke-Gibb at [alison@gibbbros.com.au](mailto:alison@gibbbros.com.au) Also, if you have any stories or competition results to be published in the Fassifern Guardian, please contact Barbara Draheim at [barbara draheim@hotmail.com.au](mailto:barbara_draheim@hotmail.com.au)

### **Fundraising:**

As our club is a non-profit organization, we rely heavily on monies raised throughout the year by various fund raising activities. We encourage all members to participate where possible in these activities and we are always looking for new ideas to assist with raising funds. Small raffles are conducted at each muster and competitions throughout the year – donations of prizes are most welcome

## **End of Year Trophy Presentation:**

Trophies presented at the end of year include;

- Ehrich Family Perpetual Trophy for attendance at musters – presented to the member with the highest recorded attendance at musters throughout the year.
- Attendance Awards (For those members who have attended more than 10 musters)
- Participation Awards – To all junior members
- Presidents Trophy – to be decided by the President