**MIDLAND ZONE OF PCV**

**51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA**

**HELD AT BENDIGO ON 4TH AUGUST 2017**

**Meeting Opened:** 9.20pm

**Club Representatives Present:** Faye Barnett, Lynn MacIntyre, Casey MacIntyre (Bealiba), Kaye Blanchard (Charlton), Alison Lord, Geoff Lord, Jo Lane, (Horsham), Kira Chalmers, Nicki Chalmers, Julie Robins (Maldon), Donna Stebbins, Robyn Houlahan (Mandurang South), Bec Kendt, Nicole Kendt, Chelsea Gerring (Maryborough), Lisa Horton, Steph Horton, Georgia Cole, Andrea Rankin, Sandra Grinton, Laura Grinton, Kim O’Neil, Madi Brichmore, Erin Pilkington, Trista Hoyland, Julie Birchmore, Mark Birchmore, Madison Birchmore, Brianna Birchmore (Neangar Park), Olivia Cole (Stawell), Linda Gerring, Sue Foley, Viv Cole, Debbie Weir, Debbie Ruff (Zone)

**Invitees –** Marie Tomkinson

**Apologies –** Sonia Brockenbrow (Horsham), Julie Gould, Dawn Bulger (Bealiba), Narelle O’Callagahan (Stawell), Alena Olive, Jacinta Pollock (Charlton), Leanne Thorpe (Maryborough)

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting 2016:

***Moved:*** *Jo Lane**that Minutes as circulated are a true and correct record.*

***Seconded:*** *Debbie Weir*

**Presidents Report as presented by Linda Gerring**

Welcome to all Midland Zone members, distinguished guests, life members & friends, to the Midland Zone 2017 AGM.

Once again we have seen another year fly by so quickly that if feels like only yesterday that we were at the AGM in Horsham.

The Midland Zone has achieved a lot over the past 12 months with regular meetings held by-monthly at either St Arnaud or Maryborough. Thank you to the Club delegates who attend these meetings to represent your club throughout the year. I encourage all clubs to have a representative at most Midland Zone meetings as it is a good way to keep your club informed on what is happening around the Zone.

The Sandhurst Stockfeeds 2017 Victorian Pony Club Team Championships which was run over the long weekend in March at Bendigo Show Grounds was a great success with large entries and an increase in Teams in the composite section. I would personally like to thank every person who donated their time to ensure that this event ran as smoothly as possible and the clubs who loaned equipment to the Midland Zone.

The Midland Zone is very appreciative of all the sponsors who came on board for this event from our Major sponsor Sandhurst Stockfeeds through to all the minor sponsors:

* Dunluce Lamb
* Equine Pure
* Champion Browbands
* Equitation Science International
* Go Pest
* Hidez Victoria
* Horse Barn
* Innovative Hoof Care Australia
* Scotts Boots
* City Barn
* Equilibrium
* Giddyupgirl Australia
* Goodwoods
* Hamag
* Horse Deals
* Joseph Lyddy
* Lollies to Go
* The NRG Team
* TopTac
* TuffRock
* Virbac
* Equestrian Life
* Roack tape
* City of Greater Bendigo

Without their support this great event could not be the success it is. I must thank Kira Chalmers for the outstanding job she does organising sponsorship plus the donations of goodies for the show bags.

This year the Zone purchased orange caps for all competitors and it was great to see riders wearing our colour with pride. I am pleased that the Zone riders continue to wear their caps when representing the Zone and their clubs at events.

Throughout the year the Zone executive has endeavoured to be inclusive and build strong bridges between the clubs. In the big picture all the riders throughout the Zone do not only belong to their individual clubs but to the Zone. We all are proud of the efforts our riders put into their chosen sport and the amazing animals they compete with. This strong bond between clubs is most evident at PCV state events where everyone camps together and supports each other.

One of the biggest decisions for this year made by the Midland Zone has been to purchase a purpose built trailer that can hold 4 Dressage Arenas. This will be a big asset to the Zone and our clubs who will be able to use these arenas for their own events.

Finally I would like to thank the executive committee who have put in so much time throughout the year to ensure the Zone functions efficiently.

Viv Cole & Jo Lane as the Zone Vice Presidents have both put in enormous amounts of time to ensure venues for zone events were up to scratch. We lost Jo throughout the year as she took on the Zone Chief Instructor role. Thank you Viv & Jo.

Debbie Weir stepped into the Zone Treasurer role and introduced us all to the amazing world of DROPBOX. Through this the documentation storage and standardisation have been improved. Debbie has also brought fresh eyes to the table with presenting reports which has included profit & loss statements for each event. Thank you Debbie for all you do for the Midland Zone.

Debbie Ruff resigned from her position as the Midland Zone Secretary last year then graciously came back on board to help us out when Michaela Tankard resigned from the position earlier this year. I personally thank Debbie for stepping in and helping out when needed.

And finally I need to thank our PCV Zone Rep Sue Foley who I can say once again has the biggest volunteer role I have ever known of. If we had to pay Sue to perform this role we would have been bankrupt years ago.

Sue has a real passion for her Mighty Midland Zone, all its riders and parents and for the Pony Club movement as a whole plus the beautiful animals that make this all possible. Her passion and enthusiasm is second to none and she never stops thinking of how we can keep the momentum going in the zone and PCV as a whole.

And Finally I need to thank all our riders who make running the Zone an absolute pleasure. Their smiles and enjoyment is what keeps myself and the others on the Zone Exec in our roles.

Linda Gerring

Midland Zone President

***Moved:*** *Linda Gerring* ***Seconded:*** *Viv Cole*

**Treasurers Report as presented by Debbie Weir**

***Moved:*** *Debbie Weir* ***Seconded:*** *Kira Chalmers*

**Zone Representative Report as presented by Sue Foley**

Good evening to our Special guests, members and friends. It is my pleasure and privilege to present my 2017 report as the Zone Representative for the Midland Zone of PCV.

The 2016/17 year has been a good one for the Midland Zone. Clubs have for the most part coped well with the transition to online membership. As with all new processes it has not been without teething troubles but the short term pain will mean long term gain for all admin at club level and beyond. There are other big changes coming with a move to new governance as the PCV current structure does not fit best practice Governance as identified by the Australian Sports Commission. A Governance subcommittee has been formed to identify the possibilities for the future. It is recognised that change and the process will take time.

Over the past couple of years we have seen a decline in membership across a lot of sporting associations and sadly pony club is not immune to this decline. I have occasionally heard people around the clubs ask “What is PCV doing about this?” My reply has been.. We ARE PCV.. what are we doing about it? What can we do about?

We are losing more associate members (17 years+) than we are junior members. My personal feeling about this is that it is because these older riders often perceive Equestrian Victoria and HRCAV as being the more sophisticated option for their competition dollar; that they would rather be small fish in a big pond than big fish in a small pond. So how do we encourage them to stay? I feel we need to involve them. These older riders are so looked up to by our junior riders. They are very important to our association. It would be fantastic for instance to have an associate member from the Midland Zone gain their K certificate in the next couple of years. It has been a long time since this has happened. Riders can start working towards this at 14 years but encouragement and support needs to first come from club level.

The PCV strategic plan states that our mission is to “Educate and promote the enjoyment of horses by young people in a safe, friendly environment.” I feel strongly that this is where we sit in the equestrian marketplace. Pony club is the educator of riders and their families. No other horse body does it. Our syllabus is built around the sound education of the rider to provide standards of horse welfare and best practice starting now with the E certificate for riders under 7 years of age.

However we are not solely about education. Importantly we are also about promoting, through a shared love of horses, friendship and a sense of community and belonging. For clubs to maintain and also to increase their membership base it is vital that these principles are followed. A member who feels that they are learning, who feels that they are included and that they belong is a member who will rejoin and who will tell their friends about the benefits of belonging to a great pony club.

While all clubs agree to follow the aims, objectives and rules of PCV there is room within this framework for clubs to have different cultures. This is also a positive as diversity along with unity strengthens our association. Of course none of this is possible without the input of the core group of amazing people at club level, the volunteers! Thank you to all the wonderful parents and adult supporters of the Midland Zone who step up to take on committee roles at club level and to those who do the myriad of jobs essential to keep a club running smoothly . Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless but because they are priceless.

Without the time and energy of our wonderful volunteers our association would grind to a halt. The upside to volunteering is that the more you get involved with your club the more you will get out of the whole pony club experience and that goes also for your kids.

I touched on the rules briefly before. I realise it is sometimes said that pony club has too many rules but it is the rules that maintain as much as possible a level playing field and it is the rules that keep us all safe. Thank you to the club committees who follow the rules. You make my job easier.

Whilst pony club is first and foremost about education and friendship it is also about competition, be that at club, zone, state or National level. Midland Zone members have again had a great year in the pony club competition arena.

In August the Midland Zone Flat and Show jumping Team shield event was held at Donald Pony club grounds. It was great to be back at these fantastic grounds. Horsham pony club won the Flat team shield with Stawell pony club taking home the Showjumping Team shield. Well done to Oscar Cole from Stawell on winning the Riverside & Tom Whiskers best A/B grade show jumping combination trophy donated by Peggy Mills in memory of her daughter Jess’s 2 great show jumping horses.

The Ride to Time final was also held in August at Moonee Valley. Ebony Bayliss from Maldon PC placed 6th in the grade 3 /4 section and Shaleah Bray from Bendigo pony club also placed 6th in the grade 1/2 section

October 23rd was a fantastic day at Ararat Pony Club . Thank you so much to the committee and members for the amazing effort they all put in to hosting the International Mounted Games Exchange teams and their coaches and chaperones at the October rally. It was great fun sharing the joys of lamingtons and pavlova with the teams from Canada, Great Britain, America and Australia .The Ararat grounds looked fantastic and the instructors did a great job showcasing pony club in Victoria and the mighty Midland Zone.

The second Sunday in December saw the Midland Zone Dressage & Showjumping Championships held at Maldon. These were the qualifiers for the State Dressage and Showjumping championships which were held at PCVEC over the weekend of March 4th and 5th.

Congratulations to our Grade 2 Dressage Team Steph Horton, Brianne Cole and Mikayla O'Neill on their 5th placing. Our B Grade Show jumping team Alex Kelly, Annie Shea, Olivia Cole and Oscar Cole who all rode brilliantly with a 5th place and our C Grade show jumping team Olivia Cole, Riley Perry-Parmenter and Bridget Kelly who did a fantastic job and placed sixth. Hannah Wigg had a successful competition to place 5th overall in the individual A grade show jumping.

The following weekend was the biggest weekend on the yearly calendar for the Mighty Midland Zone with the second ever Midland Zone Pony Club team championships held at the Bendigo Show grounds. It was the BEST weekend of pony club fun, friends, competition, team spirit and horses, horses, horses. Lots of happy kids with smiling faces which is what it is all about. Plans are well underway for the 2018 event. We have built a competition our zone can be very proud of and we will continue to improve it. An event that caters to all pony club riders in a fun team environment, not just to the elite of the sport. Once again this event would not have been possible without the involvement of many members of our zone but especially so Clinton Hedger from Maryborough pony club who is a bit like the Energiser Bunny.. He just keeps on going!

It was a wild, wet and windy day at the 2017 Midland Zone Horse Trials held at the beautiful Charlton PC grounds on April 9th but the weather didn’t dampen the enthusiasm of the competitors. Congratulations to the team from Horsham PC "Fifty Shades of Neigh" Georgia Adams, Niketta McDonald, Paris Fiedler & Morgan Lord who were the winners of the Midland Zone Horse Trials Shield for 2017. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the day a success. There were so many people who chipped in where needed. A special mention to the Cole family from Stawell PC who made the 3 hour round trip every day to the grounds on the week prior to the event. Thanks to Kaye and Tony Blanchard and Clinton from Charlton PC who also worked very hard getting the grounds ready and also maintained the grounds in the trying conditions on the day.

MZ treasurer Debbie Weir arrived home from an OS trip on Friday prior to the event and due to the sudden illness of our scorer agreed to be thrown in the deep end to score for the event. Thank you so much Debbie and offsider Toni Weir.

May 6th and 7th was the date of the PCV State Horse Trials Festival held at the Pony Club Victorian Equestrian Centre. It was the best weekend with a wonderful group of Midland Zone riders and their families culminating in some very well deserved results! Huge congratulations to Riley Perry-Parmenter Maryborough (6th in Gr 1 on Leo, 9th in Gr 2 on Des), Oscar Cole Stawell (2nd in Gr 2), Olivia Cole from Stawell also rode brilliantly but had some bad luck on the XC course. Ingrid Gould (Bealiba), Morgan Lane, Morgan Lord (Horsham) and Prudence Robinson (Bendigo) came 1st in the Inter Zones Team Challenge in Gr 4 with their team the Midland Meteors. Morgan Lord won her section of grade 4 and Morgan Lane placed 3rd in her grade 4 section. Tamrie Carter (Bealiba PC) placed 6th in a Grade 4 composite team with riders from the North East Zone.

The Midland Majors finished 8th overall in the grade 3 Inter Zones Team Horse Trials - a fantastic result!- Olivia Cole (Stawell PC), Toni Weir (Bealiba PC), Ingrid Gould (Bealiba PC) and Anna Sudholz (Horsham PC).

The camaraderie of the whole Midland Crew that weekend was fantastic. The riders supported and encouraged each other, they rode beautifully, their presentation was faultless and their attitude collectively was nothing but positive. I have to say that those who wore the new Midland Zone saddlecloth looked very professional and it is my sincere and deep hope that we can add this saddlecloth to the zone uniform.

June also saw the announcement of the Team to represent Victoria at the Pony Club Australia National Championships being held in Toowoomba Queensland in September. HUGE congratulations go to Riley Perry-Parmenter and her amazing horse Leo's Honor from Maryborough pony club on their selection in the senior eventing team.

July 9th saw some of us enjoying a very cold but fun day at the St Arnaud Turf club for the Midland Zone 2017 Ride 2 Time qualifiers. Congratulations to all who participated and well done to Riley Perry-Parmenter (Gr 1 / 2) and Mallory Walker (Gr 3 / 4) from Maryborough PC on qualifying to represent the zone at the State final to be held at Moonee Valley on August 26th. We wish them both the very best of luck.

In February the Zone executive was saddened to receive the resignation of Nicki Chalmers from her position as Zone Chief Instructor. Nicki did an outstanding job in this role, managing the position of Zone Examining Secretary at the same time. However she has a young family and family comes first. Thankfully Nicki has continued on as the Midland Zone Examining Secretary for which we are all very grateful. The clubs and members of the Midland Zone owe a great deal of thanks and appreciation to Nicki for her dedication to pony club and the Midland Zone as we have benefited greatly from her knowledge and her passion for pony club. We also owe thanks to Jo Lane from Horsham Pony Club who agreed to fill the Zone Chief Instructor Casual Vacancy until the annual election in June when she was formally appointed. Jo already has a very full life but you know what they say “If you want something done, ask a busy person!”

This brings me to the rest of the Zone executive. I sometimes wonder if the clubs of the Midland Zone realise the hours that the members of the executive put into their roles, remembering that they also all hold committee positions in clubs of the Zone. Thank you so much to President Linda Gerring, Vice president Viv Cole, Secretary Debbie Ruff who kindly and amazingly agreed to again take on the role when previous secretary Michaela resigned, to treasurer Debbie Weir who not only takes amazing care of the money but who has also introduced us to the joys of Dropbox.

You are a fantastic team and your commitment to your individual roles is very much appreciated. Thank you to you all.

A special mention must go to Neangar Park member Mark Birchmore who came along to his first Zone meeting this year and who has as a result whole heartedly committed to making sure we have the best new dressage trailer in Victoria. Thank you Mark.

I am very confident that every person in this room supports the aims and objectives of pony club 100% because they are so very much worth supporting! I often say when discussing pony club that there is so much to be gained from being unified in what we want for our members and in being unified in our methodology and in striving to be the best we can be through continuous improvement. The energy and time we put into our clubs is reflected in the clubs success and reflected in the enjoyment and involvement of our members.

This is the way forward to ensure the development and growth of our wonderful association.

Thank you all. Sue Foley

***Moved:*** *Sue Foley****Seconded:*** *Nicki Chalmers*

**Zone Chief Instructors Report as presented by Jo Lane**

As you all know I have been given big shoes to fill. I am excited to be learning from Nicky Chalmers about the role. I am also looking forward to developing resources with and for the DCI/ZA Panel such as Dressage Judge test feedback sheets.

I am looking forward to getting to know the Chief Instructors panel from across the state as I believe this is a great resource of experience and knowledge.

I was really pleased with the attendance from our zone at the State Basics Training Workshop at Gladysdale and hope that we can keep the momentum and attend more state and zone workshops in the future. Thank you to Debbie Weir for driving the Midland Party Bus to the workshop.

Coming up we have a date set aside in November for our next zone workshop, it would be great to see lots of different clubs attending this.

I am very keen to support our Zone Representative in ensuring we continue with our excellent record of coach registrations and the adoption of the Child Safe Policy.

Finally in August we have our Zone Flat Ride and Show Jumping Team Event. We need all the clubs to get behind this and other events to make sure they are successful. Our zone is very competitive when we compete at state events and I think this comes from the level of competition we provide from within our own zone.

Thank you.

***Moved:*** *Jo Lane* ***Seconded:*** *Sue Foley*

**Zone Examining Secretary’s Report as presented by Nicki Chalmers**

Verbal report provided at the meeting

***Moved:*** *Nicki Chalmers****Seconded:*** *Jo Lane*

**Election of Zone Office Bearers:**

The Zone President declared all positions vacant and asked Kaye Blanchard to take the chair.

Only one nomination was received for each position. As a ballot was not required all nominations were accepted.The following members were duly elected:-

**Position** **Nomination** **Nominating Club**

Zone President Linda Gerring Maryborough

Zone Senior Vice President Geoff Lord Horsham

Zone Junior Vice President Mark Birchmore Neangar Park

Zone Secretary Debbie Ruff Maryborough

Zone Treasurer Debbie Weir Bealiba

Zone Examining Secretary Nicki Chalmers Maldon

Zone Event Secretary This position will be filled by the President

**Election of Zone Junior Committee Office Bearers:**

No elections held as committee is in recess.

**Zone Life Memberships:**

There were no life memberships awarded this AGM.

**Zone Affiliation Fee:**

Zone Treasurer, Debbie Weir, recommended through her report that Zone Fees should remain the same as in 2016-2017. The Zone Affiliation Fee of $90 which comprises a $50 Zone Fee and $40 for two Zone Instructor Schools ($20 each).

***Moved:*** *Debbie Weir that total Zone Affiliation Fee for 2017-2018 to remain at $90.*

***Seconded:*** *Debbie Ruff carried.*

**Zone Secretary’s Honorarium:**

Zone Treasurer, Debbie Weir, recommend that the Zone Secretary’s honorarium be discontinued as the costs associated with this position are no longer as high. All Zone Executive are now encouraged to submit a request for remuneration of costs involved with their position to the Zone Treasurer.

***Moved:*** *Debbie Weir - that the Secretary's remuneration be discontinued.*

***Seconded:*** *Geoff Lord carried.*

**Meeting Closed:** 10.00pm