

**MIDLAND ZONE OF PCV**  
**52<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT ST ARNAUD ON 3<sup>rd</sup> AUGUST 2018**

**Meeting Opened: 8.05pm**

**Club Representatives Present:**

Ararat	Wendy Dickenson, Caitlin Walker
Bealiba	Faye Barnett, Dawn Bulger
Beaufort	Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Sandi Little, Remi Gray
Bendigo	Jackie Tresize
Castlemaine	
Charlton	Kaye Blanchard
Donald	Melissa Sellick, Anne Campbell, Beryl Pearse
Harcourt	
Horsham	Jo Lane
Huntly Spring Gully	<b>IN RECESSION</b>
Loddon	
Maldon	
Mandurang South	
Maryborough	Chelsea Gerring
Neangar Park	Julie Birchmore
Stawell	Viv Cole, Olivia Cole
St Arnaud	Tracey Arbuckle, Abbey Arbuckle
Midland Zone	Linda Gerring, Mark Birchmore, Deb Weir, Deb Ruff, Sue Foley
Life Members	Clarrie & Angela King, Richard & Ann Marston, Christine Linton

**Invitees:** Tania McDermott (HERO Program), Rick Gill (PCV CEO)

**Apologies:** Jill McEwen (Donald), Tess Tepper (Stawell), Loddon PC, Maldon PC, Mandurang South PC, Don Roach (Life Member), Geoff Lord, Nicki Chalmers (Midland Zone), Rob and Judy Tranter, Pat Hedger (Maryborough)

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 51<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting 2017:

**Moved:** Chelsea Gerring - *that the Minutes as circulated are a true and correct record.*  
**Seconded:** Jo Lane

**Presidents Report as presented by Linda Gerring**

**Moved:** Linda Gerring

**Seconded:** Kaye Blanchard

Welcome to the Midland Zone life members, PCV Executive Officer Rick Gill, Special guest Tanya McDermet President of the HERO program and club members and riders. To begin with I would like to say Thank you to the members of the Midland Zone clubs who have committed their time to travelling to Zone meetings over the past 12 months so that they can be involved in decision making and development of the Midland Zone as well as representing your club and its views at Zone level.

Looking back over the past 12 months I can proudly report on what the Midland Zone has achieved:

Firstly the Dressage trailer and arenas become a reality, after months of discussion and planning we finally were able to proudly say we now have an amazing asset for our zone and all our clubs. The finished Dressage Trailer painted in orange and black plus the 4 large arenas look amazing and were official presented to the members of the Midland Zone at the Dec Dressage and Show Jumping State Qualifying event held at

Ararat Pony Club. The Zone invited life members and notable ex members to attend this opening in recognition to their contribution to the funds that were put towards the purchase the arenas and trailer.

The Sandhurst Stockfeed Victorian Pony Club Team Championships was the biggest event on the Midland Zone Calendar and with 158 entries and 42 Teams. Thank you to the many sponsors who came on board to donate money and merchandise for this event.

The running of this event is only possible by the commitment of the amazing volunteers from the Zone and clubs. Over the 2 days of this event we saw many riders of a variety of abilities and ages having lots of fun whilst riding as a part of a team and representing their clubs. From the feedback from competitors and the continuous improvement attitude from the key people I can see this event growing from year to year.

The Midland Zone also ran 3 state qualifying events over the past twelve months and one Zone Shield event. These Zone events become great venues to bring riders (and parents) together to help promote and foster friendships. The Saturday evening camp sites are popular way of people catching up and having fun usually around several camp fires.

When I am watching the events unfold and witness riders from clubs that are over 200km apart, laughing, talking and supporting each other it shows me why it is of the utmost importance to run the zone events and encourage as many riders as possible to participate. The memories from these events will last a long time and our contribution as adults help build these brilliant memories.

Through the funds raised at the Pony Club Team Champs the Midland Zone has finally ended the never ending, ongoing debate regarding what colour saddle blankets would teams use at PCV State events. The Zone will now supply every Zone rider the first time they represent the Zone at a PCV State event with a Midland Zone Saddle blanket. This saddle blanket has become a part of the Midland Zone uniform.

The Midland Zone is one of the smallest Zones in the state in membership, but one of the largest is size. When we travel from one end to another it can take longer than it that takes for many of us to drive to Melbourne. Because of this clubs and riders can become isolated and feel detected.

The Midland Zone Executive, Zone Rep as well as the Chief Instructor and the Examining Secretary endeavour to keep the communication lines open and all members informed by using Facebook. This social media network tool has become a brilliant way to keep in contact. The Zone section groups allows the zone executive and Zone rep plus clubs to keep in touch with members in every corner of the zone and this year our Zone examining secretary Nikki Chalmers opened up a new way of workshop delivery by running facebook live workshops for c candidates and their parents

The feedback from these communication lines has been positive and the Zone will be hopefully expanding how it can connect proficiently with members throughout the next 12 months

Understandably not all people are on Facebook so the zone relies on the clubs secretary's and DC to pass this information onto the members who we have not reached.

To be inclusive the Zone moves its events around the zone on a yearly rotation basis. I know this means sometimes we are asking competitors families to travel up to 2 hours to attend some Zone events, but I strongly encourage members to make the efforts to travel and support the zone and ultimately the riders who are endeavouring to qualify for state selection.

Pony Club is and has always been a great foundation for many riders to beginning their journey with horses and I often see the great work all our clubs are doing to foster and support their members. I personal would like to thank all the committees of the clubs in our zone for the dedication and effort that they do in firstly providing a safe fun

environment for their riding members young and old to develop in and secondly in the efficient way they run their clubs which ensure the long term viability of their future. We have seen some amazing improvements to club facilities over the past 12 months through funding received from grants and the hard work of their volunteers. Maldon Pony Club has upgraded its Grade 1 & 2 XC course and Maryborough Pony Club now has a beautiful enclosed Sand Show Jumping Arena as well as a purpose built office in the clubrooms from Club and Grant funding. I encourage all clubs to be active in their grant submissions because as the clubs improve facilities this not only benefits their membership, but also all members of the Zone. If you need any help or advice I encourage you to contact the clubs that have been successfully obtain grants for advice.

Sadly this year the Midland Zone lost one of its most avid supporters, advocates and favourite life member Laurie Cole. Laurie and his wife Lois would often be seen at Zone and State events offering words of wisdom to the Zone executive and words of encouragement to all riders especially his beloved grandchildren.

I would like to begin close my report in the same way I do every year and that is by thanking the zone executive for there never ending dedication to the Zone and the roles they have undertaken. From the vice and junior vice president Geoff Lord and Mark Birchmore who have supported me in the president's role over this past 12 months and then to our Treasurer Debbie Weir who keeps us all in the loop with the zone income and expenditure and the sustainability of zone events. To our Secretary Debbie Ruff who came back into the position in early 2017 when the previous secretary inexpediently resigned mid-term and then continued into 2017/18 year I thank you for staying on. Debbie is one of the amazing people connected to pony club she does not have any children but is there for all our kids and she is from "The Best Aunty" team and brings her nieces to pony club each month and is now one of the "Grown up" pony clubbers. Through Debbie's association with Maryborough Pony Club Debbie become involved in the Zone and then took on the Zone secretary role. Debbie is continuing as the Zone scorer at events so we will all be seeing her around.

Thank you to Jo Lane and Nicki Chamber for their ongoing commitment to their roles and lastly a massive thankyou to our Zone Rep Sue Foley. The Zone reps role has to be the biggest volunteer position I know of and the commitment that Sue gives to her role is truly remarkable and demonstrates her belief in pony club and the value it is to all riders young and old.

Finally I want to thank members of the Midland Zone Clubs who have committed their time to travelling to Zone meetings over the past 12 months so that they can be involved in decision making and development of the Mighty Midland Zone

### **Treasurers Report as presented by Debbie Weir**

	<b>Opening Balances</b>	<b>Closing Balances</b>
Australia Bank	\$11,020.41	\$871.06
Australia Bank	\$7,018.39	\$0
Bendigo Bank	\$0	\$18,589.28
Term Deposit	\$45,967.78	\$26,676.33

**Overall balance** as at 30/6/2018

**Moved:** Debbie Weir

**\$46136.67**

**Seconded:** Tracey Arbuckle

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

Good evening to our Special guests, life members, members and friends. Also, a special welcome to Rick Gill, the new Executive officer of PCV. Rick commenced in his new role with PCV on July 16th and has driven all the way from Mulgrave to join us this evening, which is very much appreciated.

On a sad note I would like to remember tonight PCV Distinguished Service Award recipient and Midland Zone Life Member Laurie Cole who passed away in October last year. Laurie was a past president of the Midland Zone and a life member of Charlton PC. Laurie gave so much to the Pony Club Association of Victoria and to the Midland Zone over the years for which the Zone will be forever grateful. His legacy to PCV and the Zone lives on through his wife Loris, his son Troy, daughter in law Viv and his wonderful grandchildren Brianne, Oscar and Olivia. Oscar and Olivia proudly represent their club and their Zone at many State events.

It is now my pleasure and privilege to present my 2018 report as the Zone Representative and State Councilor for the Midland Zone of PCV.

The Zone executive has continued to visit as many of the clubs of the Mighty Midland Zone as possible throughout the year. I personally find these visits invaluable. It is a way of touching base with the membership and getting to know the people in the club who make it all work for our riders. I think it can be a bit daunting for clubs to hear THE ZONE is visiting but I've noticed once the visit is underway that business goes on as usual. The visits are definitely not about telling clubs what they are doing wrong but very much about supporting clubs to be as good as they can be.

I always finish a club visit feeling proud of what is being achieved at club level. However watching our fantastic riders enjoying their horses in all that pony club has to offer, is for me the best.

There were some wonderful personal achievements recognised in the past 12 months in our Zone.

Congratulations to our two recipients of the Award of Merit in 2017 Emma Lea from Bendigo PC and Rachel Ball from Horsham PC.

It was announced at the 2017 PCV AGM that Clinton Hedger, who was been a member of the Midland Zone for 25+ years firstly as a riding member, then a Club executive member, then a Zone executive member and who still to this day continues to be involved with the Zone (despite living in the middle of New South Wales), was awarded the PCV State Distinguished Services Award. Well done to Clinton.

Linda made mention of our Zone events over the last year. I would like to acknowledge the participation and achievements of our amazing members at State and National level.

From Maryborough PC Riley Perry-Parmenter on Desertline qualified in the Grade 1/2 section and Mallory Walker on Shadowpark Our Girl Lucy qualified in the Grade 3/4 section to compete in the State finals of Ride to Time at Moonee Valley racecourse last August. Due to two Zones not holding R2T qualifiers, Mallory was lucky enough to be offered a place in the Grade 1/2 section at the finals. Both girls did their club and their Zone proud at the finals with Riley placing 3rd in grade 1/2, with Mallory placing 5<sup>th</sup> in 1/2 and 9th in grade 3/4 sections. It is fantastic that this event is so well supported by RV.

Riley and her beautiful horse Leo's Honor competed for Victoria as members of the Senior Eventing Team at the Pony Club Nationals in Toowoomba last September. The combination finished in 4th place!! What a brilliant result. To top it off the Victorian Senior Eventing team were crowned National Champions for 2017.

Well done also to the Midland Zone riders who competed in the games teams at the State Games, Flat and Musical championships at the end of November. It was obvious that a lot of fun was had by all who participated. It was great to see the composite teams taking part and doing well.

Thank you to Zone president Linda Gerring for her encouragement and support of all riders who competed. Linda is so fantastic at encouraging our riders to get the most out of their pony club experience and very much promotes the fun and inclusive aspect of competition. Join in, be involved, have fun and if you get a ribbon that is the icing on the cake.

The first weekend in March was the PCV State SJ and Dressage championships with the Zone proudly represented by Steph Horton and Sammi Browell in Grade 1 dressage, Morgan Lane, Oscar Cole, Riley Perry Parmenter in Grade 2 dressage and Jasmyn Beesley, Holi Campbell and Paris Fielder in Grade 3 dressage. Well done to Oscar who placed 6th overall.

Our showjumpers were Hannah Wigg in A grade, B Grade riders Annie Shea, Riley Perry-Parmenter, Mallory Walker and Oscar Cole. This team placed 5th overall. The C Grade team was Riley Perry-Parmenter, Olivia Cole and Hannah Wigg. As usual the presentation and sportsmanship of our riders was impeccable plus they all rode brilliantly.

The State Horse Trials festival in May saw a large contingent of Midland Zone riders compete in all the grades and boy were we noticed! So much so that I have other Zone reps saying things like "Will your Zone just STOP? They all look so amazing all the time that our riders now want more from us."

I say, be proud MZ riders. You only get one chance to make a good first impression and it seems that the impression you are making is a lasting one. Needless to say the Zone saddlecloths are a hit!

The Mighty Midland Zone was represented by Riley Perry-Parmenter in both Grade 1 and Grade 2 and by Oscar and Olivia Cole in grade 2 at the State Horse Trials Championships. Riley placed 3rd overall in Grade 1 with Oscar doing an amazing job to win his section of grade 2 and Olivia finishing just out of the placing's. Our sensational InterZone Teams Challenge competitors in Grade 3 were the Midland Masters - Jenna Cole (Mandurang Sth PC), Teaghan Stebbins (Mandurang Sth PC), Siena Shirres (Maryborough PC) and Ebony Bayliss (Maldon PC). Midland Magic comprised of Prudence Robinson (Bendigo PC), Morgan Lord (Horsham PC), Morgan Lane (Horsham PC) and Jasmyn Beesley (Mandurang Sth PC). The Grade 4 Midland Maestros comprised of Holi Campbell (Bendigo PC), Karlee Stebbins (Mandurang Sth PC), Pru Robinson (Bendigo PC) and Rachel Ball (Horsham PC).

I think of all my weekends with our riders at PCVEC this one is, to date, my favourite. Camaraderie, team spirit, fun and friendship; our riders had it all in bucket loads. Plus once again we did matchy matchy to the last detail, right down to our socks!! Our Zone colours are the best!!

At State level the new governance model has been developed since last December. There is a lot of information available on the PCV website to explain the model. I know Rick will be keen to answer any questions you might have this evening. The new constitution is to be voted on at the PCV AGM in October. Each club gets a vote so it is essential that members read the information and understand what they are voting for. If the new constitution is accepted by clubs so is the proposed PCV board.

At national level the PCA New Syllabus of Instruction is to be launched at the National Coaching Conference in QLD in August. Jo Lane will be attending the conference so we look forward to her report when she returns.

At this point I need to say a huge thank you to the Midland Zone executive. We have an amazing crew of riders in the Midland Zone backed by the support of the volunteers in their clubs. The clubs are ably supported by the Midland Zone executive who works hard to support admin to clubs, the running of Zone events, the Zone workshops and the assessing of the certificate candidates making sure it all goes smoothly.

Thank you to Linda Gerring Zone president and event secretary for the great job she does and for the hours and hours of phone conversations throughout the year.

Thank you to Zone secretary Debbie Ruff for keeping us all in touch with club programs and minutes of meetings.

Debbie Weir is a wonderful Zone treasurer and I am personally grateful to her for her computer and printer advice. She is not so happy with me when it comes to Drop box.

Nicki Chalmers as Zone examining secretary does a wonderful job and this year initiated some great online training for our C certificate and above candidates.

Jo Lane has settled well into the job of Zone Chief instructor and I know has wonderful things planned for the 2019 camp.

It's also great to have Zone Vice presidents Geoff Lord and Mark Birchmore on the executive for their male perspective and sound advice.

It is both rewarding and humbling to write these annual reports reviewing the achievements of our riders, clubs and volunteers over the past year. Pony club is such a wonderful association, one where not only can a rider begin a life with horses but one where horses will ensure that their riders also learn skills that will serve them well through life. These being persistence, resilience, respect for others and to put others before themselves. What great life lessons!

***Moved:*** Sue Foley

***Seconded:*** Wendy Dickenson

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

What a fantastic year we have had in the Midland Zone.

At Mandurang in November 2017 and at Ararat in April 2018 we hosted NCAS Coach Training & Accreditation days. At these weekends we had a number of coaches either refresh or become accredited. This is fantastic to see as it ensures our clubs remain robust with qualified coaches and having a NCAS qualified coach is essential for clubs with over 20 riding members. Another weekend is planned for later this year.

The Deputy Chief Instructor and Zone Assistant Panel had a very productive online meeting in which planning for the 2019 Zone Camp was started. This will now progress in earnest as we approach the end of the year. Clubs will be asked to place an expression of interest for hosting the camp.

I have managed to attend all Chief Instructor Panel meetings at Irving House in order to represent our zone at a state level. The panel is a fantastic source of information and knowledge covering a wide range of topics. The panel will travel as a group to Queensland to the Pony Club Australia National Conference in August 2018.

I am very keen to support our Zone Representative, Sue Foley, to ensure Midland Zone clubs continue with their excellent record of coach registrations and the adoption of the Child Safe Policy. It is excellent that most clubs are taking on board these compliance policies and following through with the requirements. I will continue to be an advocate and encourage all clubs to make sure they are adopting these policies.

Thank you to members of the Midland Zone Executive Committee who helped pull together a wonderful Ride to Time in July. We had 16 riders contest for the honour of competing in the state final at Moonee Valley.

Following on from Midland Zone's strong representation at the State Dressage & Show Jumping, the State Horse Trials Festival and now Ride to Time we have our Zone Games, Flat and Musical Ride Qualifier coming up on the 19th of August and later in the year the Dressage and Show Jumping Qualifier. I encourage all club representatives to inspire and encourage our riding members to participate in the qualifiers.

In closing I am proud to be a part of the mighty Midland Zone and love seeing and speaking to both riding and supporting members of our wonderful organisation. It is the people that make our zone strong and a great thing to be a part of.

***Moved:*** Jo Lane

***Seconded:*** Tracey Arbuckle

### **Zone Examining Secretary's Report as presented by Nicki Chalmers**

*No report presented at the meeting*

**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:-

<u>Position</u>	<u>Nomination</u>	<u>Nominating Club</u>
Zone President	Mark Birchmore	Neangar Park
Zone Senior Vice President	Geoff Lord	Horsham
Zone Junior Vice President	Donna Stebbins	Mandurang South
Zone Secretary	Linda Gerring	Maryborough
Zone Treasurer	Debbie Weir	Bealiba
Zone Examining Secretary	Nicki Chalmers	Maldon
Zone Event Secretary	Debbie Ruff	Maryborough

**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 that Zone Fees should remain the same as in 2018-2019. The Zone Affiliation Fee of \$90 consists of a \$50 Zone Fee and \$40 for two Zone Instructor Schools (\$20 each).

**Moved:** *Debbie Weir that total Zone Affiliation Fee for 2018-2019 to remain at \$90.*

**Seconded:** *Kaye Blanchard carried.*

**Meeting Closed:** 9.20pm