

Midland Zone Inc. Annual General Meeting Agenda

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the Midland Zone of Pony Club Association of Victoria Inc.

Date: Friday 20th August 2021.
Venue: The Marong Hotel. 26 High St Marong.
Time: Dinner 7pm. Meeting opened 2030pm

Attendance:

Ararat: apologies	Bealiba: Debbie Weir, Julie Gould, Faye Barnett, Camille Dowling, Lily Jackson, Dawn Bulger, Kelly Barnett, Ryan Templeton, Carolyn Stephenson,
Beaufort: Bronwyn Cuthbertson	Bendigo: Maree Campbell
Castlemaine: Debbie Peters	Charlton: Kaye Blanchard
Donald: Susie Hedt, Beryl Pearce	Harcourt: Peggy Mills, Elsa Haebich, Amanda Bak, Michael Bak
Horsham: Kellie Dickenson, Kylie Fiedler,	Learmonth: Roger LeGrand
Loddon: Elyshia Isaac, Di Wayman	Maldon: Julie Robbins, Nicki Chalmers, Mel Scable, Kira Chalmers
Mandurang Sth: Donna Stebbins	Maryborough: Linda Gerring, Chelsea Gale
Neangar Park: Trista Hoyland, Dee Munro	Stawell: apologies
St Arnoud: apologies	Zone : Sue Foley, Don Roach

Apologies

Stawell - Narelle O'Callahan
Horsham - Emilia Sudholz, Betty & Noel Janetzki
St Arnoud - Katrina Cheeseman
Loddon - Rachael Taylor, Linda Izaac
Bendigo - Nadine Munroe
Ararat - Wendy Dickenson, Tina Wilde

Motion 2021a. That the apologies be accepted.

Moved by Loddon Di Wayman Seconded Kylie Janetzki carried

Motion 2021b. That the Minutes of the Midland Zone Inc. Annual General Meeting held on 17th November 2020 (online meeting) to be read and confirmed as a correct record.

Moved Kira Chalmers Seconded Debbie Weir carried

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d. Secretary:	Bronwyn Cuthbertson	Beaufort & District PC
	Mov: A Gray	Sec: R Gray
e. Treasurer:	Debbie Weir	Bealiba PC
	Mov: B Cuthbertson	Sec: S Foley
f. Zone Examining Secretary:	Nicki Chalmers	Maldon PC
	Mov: J Robins	Sec: K Chalmers
g. Zone Event Secretary:	Jill Marshall	Ararat PC
	Mov: B Cuthbertson	Sec: W Dickerson
h. Zone Representative:	Sue Foley	
	Mov: N OCallaghan	Sec: M Hall

Guest Speaker – Julie Robbins. Julie presented a very humorous and uplifting story of her Pony Club journey lasting 50 years and still going strong. Julie started at Bendigo and moved to the new club Neangar Park and is now a member of Maldon PC. Julie loved horses from an early age although she did not have her own horse until the age of 17. Julie worked hard to obtain and maintain her horses. She loved the look of the show horse and dreamt of competing in the Garryowen event at the Melbourne Show. She had a very successful career with her Thoroughbred mare Filladream (named after a dream of her first show win). Julie shared her memories of her early ponies and horses and how she eventually competed in 3 Garryowen events while starting her family.

Video presentation – slide show of Midland Zone clubs and members throughout 2021 – available to view on Midland Zone facebook home page.

Next AGM: 19th August 2022
Meeting Closed: 2130

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Once again, our pony club year has been plagued with covid 19.

Unfortunately, this seems to be becoming the norm for everyone.

The zone was, however, able to run the state qualifiers for Dressage and Show jumping held at Bealiba Pony Club. Our riders who qualified attended the State competition in February at Benalla. Congratulations to all those riders who qualified and attended the finals in Benalla. As usual, all our members performed admirably.

The Midland Zone teams championships managed to get the competition in which was immediately followed by a lockdown. This once again was a very successful few days. Thanks to Sue Foley and a hard working committee.

State Horse Trials were run in May, and once again the zone had several riders competing, many with success.

The games/flat/pairs and musical ride qualifier was run at Bealiba, but as to yet there has been no state final due to covid. It may happen one day or not.

The Zone Flat ride and show jumping shields event was decided on to be held at the State Qualifying event for dressage and show jumping in December.

It also has been decided to add 2 more qualifying events in dressage and show jumping to the calendar to enable riders to qualify at more than one event. Qualifiers to be held at Maryborough in October and Bealiba in November at their dressage and show jumping events then the final at the Zone Qualifier in December. Hopefully this will work out to be fairer for riders.

After my writing of this report, the Zone will have conducted the Zone Horse Trials and Team challenge at Charlton. Hopefully this competition will have run smoothly. Thank you to Charlton Pony Club for the use of their grounds and to them and Section A (Jo Lane) for their hard work in getting the grounds ready. Much appreciated.

Thank you once again to Sue Foley for her tireless work for the zone and to our outgoing office bearers who I hope will all be up for re-election again.

Peggy Mills.

President Midland Zone, 2021.

Zone reps AGM report 2021 August 20th

While writing reports can seem like a chore, I really enjoy writing the Midland Zone Annual report each year. To do so, I go back over the year via our Zone Facebook page and every year it is a reminder of what a fantastic group of member clubs we have in the Zone. Maybe it helps that I have a lousy memory. Looking back is full of surprises!

It's great to revisit all that the riders have achieved and enjoyed, supported by their clubs and their Zone. To me the best thing about pony club is the sense of belonging to a wonderful community of friends with a shared passion for horses and the memories on our Midland Zone Facebook page definitely supports this.

While not everyone is a fan of social media it has good points as well as bad. Clubs who have a strong social media public presence do a brilliant job of promoting their clubs and pony club. Another bonus is that for the members it promotes the sense of belonging to a supportive community.

When writing last year's report I congratulated our clubs on supporting the riders through the challenges of lockdown. Naively I couldn't imagine that we would face the same challenges through 2021. Again all clubs and members need to be congratulated on the resilience shown as we continue to navigate our way through the pandemic and the ever changing restrictions.

A perfect example of this resilience was evident last weekend when for the second year in a row the Zone was lucky enough to hold the MZ horse trials when many clubs and Zones had not been so lucky. Planning had gone on hold for this year's event when we went into lockdown and then just as suddenly we were out of lockdown, with restrictions that allowed the event to go ahead!

We had 4 days to get organised including finalising the XC course preparations. The members of section A led by MZ vice president Jo Lane did an outstanding job to make it happen.

The atmosphere at the event last weekend was fabulous with everyone who attended enjoying being together either participating in the event or volunteering. Congratulations to Charlton on winning the team shield by a small margin from Bealiba.

Covid has definitely had an effect on how we operate as a Zone. For example Club visits have been minimal because of the decreased number of rallies. Hopefully with some careful planning these will be on the increase for the upcoming year. I enjoyed a recent visit to Castlemaine pony club where the committee is doing a fabulous job and working hard to increase member numbers with the promotion of Ready to Ride and adult membership. As a Zone we are doing a wonderful job in both these membership categories. Adult riding members are a huge benefit to clubs and possibly the saviour of the country clubs.

It was also great to visit Donald PC for the official opening of their new club rooms. Donald is a shining example of a smaller country club that just goes from strength to strength due to a wonderful and very enthusiastic committee. I noted they hosted a shared rally this year for clubs belonging to section B & A that looked to be a huge success.

In the Equestrian market place we are the only association that offers the opportunity to be a member of a supportive club and Zone community where riders up to 80 years old can continue their horse education in a fun, friendly environment.

The next obvious step to me for the adult rider membership is to allow these riders to compete in pony club classes. Ours is a competency based grading system of a combination of the horse and rider and age is not competency based in the graded disciplines. In figures given at the last State council meeting, while all Zones have suffered a decrease in membership over the last 12 months it was very pleasing to see the decrease in the Midland Zone was the lowest of the 10 zones. We currently have 61 adult riding members and 39 Ready 2 Ride members along with 232 juniors and 42 seniors riders plus 224 wonderful supporters.

The Showjumping & Dressage qualifiers held at Bealiba in December last year on the traditional December date saw many of our riders qualify to attend the State event at Benalla in March. On that same weekend 4 of our riders headed off to Gladysdale to compete in the Tetrathlon competition proving there are always opportunities in pony club to try something new.

The State Show jumping and Dressage Championships held at Benalla was the first State event hosted by Zones since 2015. It was wonderful to travel to somewhere other than the Yarra Valley! Our riders had some fantastic results and just as importantly each and every one of them showed amazing team spirit, zone pride, wonderful horsemanship and great sportsmanship.

- *Grade 2 dressage took 3rd place Paris Fiedler (Horsham) Courtney Dickerson (Horsham) Jess Morrison (Bendigo)*

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- Grade 3 dressage team 5th place
- Anna Sudholz (Horsham) Montana Dickerson((Horsham) Louise Licastro (Bendigo)
- Hannah Wigg (Ararat PC) won the A grade Championship in showjumping
- Our B grade showjumping team placed 2nd
- Holi Campbell (Bendigo) Mackenzie Downing(Maldon) Ingrid Gould(Bealiba) Kian Blanchard Blanchard(Charlton)
- Our D grade showjumping team placed 5th
- Hannah Wills (Mandurang Sth) Katie Copeland (Bealiba) Iris Sudholz (Horsham) Natalie Marshall(Ararat)

The following weekend was the date of the 2021 Midland Zone Team Championships which once again was enjoyed by all who attended. Not only does this event make a good profit to support our Zone, it has such a great name among many Zones in the association We have created something of which we can be very proud and there aren't enough words to thank the small dedicated team who each year go above and beyond to make this event happen.

Also in March Learmonth PC secretary Emma Le Grand was announced as one the first two recipients of Pony Club Australia's Values Awards which was well-deserved recognition.

Sadly on March 26th Midland Zone and Bealiba PC member Casey MacIntyre lost the battle she fought against cancer with such inspirational bravery and courage. Those of us lucky enough to have known Casey will never forget her.

Then came the process for selection for the PCA Nationals. This was a huge commitment for families and their riders and I am personally so gutted for those who went through this extensive process only to have the opportunity taken from them and replaced by a virtual competition. Tonight is not the night for airing grievances but please know that I have done my best to influence a change in that decision, to a postponed competition sometime in early 2022.

Congratulations to our members who qualified to represent Victoria

- Dressage: Junior & Senior Team- Reserve 1 - Paris Fiedler Horsham PC
- Eventing: Sub Junior Team- Iris Sudholz- Horsham PC
- Eventing: Junior Team- McKenzie Downing- Maldon PC
- Eventing: Junior Team-Anna Sudholz- Horsham PC
- Ride to Time: Senior Team- Reserve 1-Samantha Kelleher- Bealiba PC
- Ride to Time: Senior Team- Reserve 2- Shaleah Bray- Bendigo PC
- Ride to Time: Junior Team- Teaghan Stebbins- Mandurang Sth PC
- Ride to Time: Junior Team- Reserve 1- Bessie Penhall- Maryborough PC
- Tetrathlon: Junior Male Team- Kian Blanchard- Charlton PC
- Showjumping: Junior Team- Holi Campbell- Bendigo PC
- Showjumping: Junior Team- Reserve 1- Kian Blanchard- Charlton PC
- Showjumping: Senior Team- Hannah Wigg - Ararat PC

The new PCV board was finally announced in early April. They fairly quickly made the wise decision to scrap the proposed Competition membership implemented by the 2020 Finance and Risk committee that would have seen the end of Open riders at pony club competitions. This was very welcome news.

May 8th and 9th was the weekend of the State Horse Trials Festival held at Riddells Creek PC. Our Midland Zone riders acquitted themselves well although the grade 5 course proved a challenge for most of the competitors from all the different zones

Mackenzie Downing riding Wiloak Rockerfella (Maldon PC) placed 2nd in the 1.10m class.

- Kian Blanchard riding Ace (Charlton PC) 5th in Grade 1
- Anna Sudholz riding Blaze (Horsham PC) 3rd in Grade 2
- The Midland Masters with Kian Blanchard Holi Campbell grade 2, Ingrid Gould in grade 3 and Kian Blanchard in grade 3 placed 4th
- The Midland Mustangs with Mackenzie Downing in the 1.10m, Anna Sudholz in grade 2, Ebony Bayliss in grade 2 and Iris Sudholz grade 3 placed 6th
- In the InterZones Teams event for grades 4 & 5 the Midland Maestros placed 4th
- Madelyn Jackson, Teaghan Stebbins and Prudence Robinson placed 4th

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- *Midland Marvels placed 7th (Just out of the ribbons!). Gemma Wills Lucinda Paterson Hannah Creevey and*
- *Gemma Wills won the OTT in this section*

Every time I am at a State event I receive wonderful feedback from other Zones on how well presented our riders are and that they have fantastic team camaraderie.

Then it was time for the Games Flat and Musical qualifiers at Bealiba which was a another successful event. Well done to everyone who qualified for State but sadly due to lockdowns the State event is yet to be held. It was great news to hear that the Maryborough Pony Clubs musical ride team was selected to compete at Equitana !! What a fabulous opportunity.

Congratulations also go to Horsham Pony Club rider Paris Fielder on Talingka Park Matthias who placed second in the 2b class of the Pony Club International Alliance Dressage competition and to Morgan Lane , also from Horsham PC who was recently selected to sit on the inaugural PCA youth advisory panel. Such well deserved achievements.

All that is left for me to say is a huge thank you to the outgoing committee. I truly believe that team work makes the dream work and the zone is lucky to have such a committed and talented executive committee. Luckily for the Zone the majority of the outgoing members of the committee have all committed to another year. Due to her very busy life, Trista Hoyland resigned from the event secretary position a couple of months ago which was a huge loss to us. She did an outstanding job whilst in that position. As Zone we are very grateful to Trista for the energy, time and expertise she brought to that role. Trista has agreed to mentor whoever takes on the role tonight.

I also want to thank the wonderful people who step and up and take on committee positions at club level and all those people who volunteer in any capacity. Without you, all our riders would not get to participate in Pony club and experience it all that it has to offer. I know I am grateful to be a part of it all!

Thank you everyone. Long live the Mighty Midland Zone!

Sue Foley

Proud Zone Representative and State Councillor of the Midland Zone of PCV

Midland Zone CI AGM Report 2021

I wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land the Dja Dja Wurrung peoples and their leaders past, present and emerging.

The Midland Zone ended 2020 with the NCAS Coaching workshop and assessment weekend in November at Maryborough. This 2 day coaching and assessment weekend was a success with large attendance of coaches on the Saturday and a large amount of Prelim and level 1 coaches undertaking assessments on the Sunday. Thank you to:

- *State Assessors Shelly McCrae & Sally Watson for their guidance and support to all coaches over the weekend*
- *Maryborough Pony Club for their hospitality*
- *The demo riders whom without them we couldn't run this weekend*
Congratulations to Morgan Lane and Paris Fielder who achieved their B Certificates in Feb 2021– This is an outstanding achievement and thankyou to their mothers for the support and guidance they gave to both girls to help them achieve this higher certificate

Midland Clubs are now getting into the new syllabus and the phrases and words associated with Equation Science such as:

- *Park*
- *Self-carriage*
- *Classical conditioning*
- *Reward/Punishment training*
- *Shadowing*
- *Flight response*

Should be now becoming a part of our normal pony club vocabulary. I implore clubs that are not including Equation Science in their rally plans to start doing so now as all riders at all levels need to be gaining a sound knowledge of equation science to help them be ready to undertake their pony club certificates.

Workshops held throughout the past 12 months have included

- ***Gear Check workshop*** in April at Maryborough Pony Club with 40 attendees. This workshop was facilitated by Nicki Chalmers with specialist's speakers for saddle fitting - Abbi Wills and Bit Fitting - Fiona Dearing adding to the learning experience.
The highlight of this workshop was the rider's enjoyment in presenting themselves and their horses with gear put on incorrectly.
- ***An Equation Science/new certificate work workshop*** was organized for July at St Arnaud with PCV coaching director Kathleen Kinder booked as the trainer. Unfortunately this workshop had to be rescheduled due to COVID restrictions and hopefully the new date in September won't be cancelled due to the current COVID climate.
- ***C* & K Certificate Get Started*** online workshops were run to encourage Midland Zone riders to take on "higher certificates".
There was a very good uptake of riders committing to commence their C or K certificate. Thank you to Kylie Fielder and Trista Hoyland for assisting with these online workshops and committing to supporting and guiding riders at this level.*
- *Throughout the past 12 months PCV offered many online workshops and I was pleased to see a many of the Midland Zone coaches and riders participating*

Ride to Time qualifying events were held for riders wanting to try to qualify for firstly the Pony Club Victoria Nationals Tryouts and then secondly the PCV Midland zone positions at the PCV State Championships in the Open and Maiden sections.

- *The National selections for Ride to Time gave riders the opportunity to be Midland Zone representatives for the State Nationals selection day for Junior Open and Maiden sections and Senior Open and Maiden sections. It was great to see many zone riders attend the two qualifying events and well done to the four riders who went onto ride at the state selection day at Benella*
 - ***Open Junior***– Teaghan Stebbins from Mandurang Sth Pony Club with Llyod Ashton
 - ***Maiden Junior*** – Bessie Penhall from Maryborough Pony Club with Smokeytown Minka
 - ***Maiden Senior***– Shaleah Bray from Bendigo Pony Club on Zoot Suit Riot & Samantha Kelleher from Bealiba

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- *Ride to Time PCV State qualifying events were held over one day at St Arnaud Race track due to the difficulties of securing two tracks to run both these qualifying events. The two qualifiers in one day format were well received and proved to be popular with 11 riders attending. Well done to the riders who gained selection for the state finals*
- **Open Section** Teagan Stebbins from Mandurang Sth pony Club and Llyod Ashton
- **Maiden section** Bessie Penhall from Maryborough Pony Club and Smokeytown Minka

The Midland Zone Camp was not organized this year due to COVID and clashes with dates. The Camp will now be organized for Jan 2021 so watch this space

It is encouraging seeing clubs and sections organizing shared rallies which promote friendship and sharing of skills at clubs – Well done to all clubs and sections that foster these fun filled rally programs.

The DCI/ZA Panel for 2020 and 2021 consisted of:

- Nicki Chalmers Zone Examining Secretary
- Trista Hoyland – Dep Chief Instructor **renewed 2021**
- Donna Stebbins – Zone Assistant
- Debbie Weir – Zone Assistant
- Julie Robins – Zone Assistant
- Kira Chalmers – Zone Assistant **renewed 2021**
- Dawn Buldger – Zone Assistant
- Kylie Fielder – Zone Assistant
- Wendy Dickerson - Zone Assistant
- Peggy Mills – Zone Assistant **newly appointed 2021**

Thank you to everyone on the panel for the extraordinary work you do to support the Midland Zone Clubs and riders. Thank you to the Midland Zone Examining secretary Nicki Chalmers for organizing C certificate assessments and to her and the other Zone Assessors for the time and effort they put into assessing the Zone C certificate riders over the past twelve months and for their willingness to be flexible on selection suitable dates around COVID shutdowns

As we move towards the end of 2021 and into 2022 let's hope that the COVID disruptions lesson and clubs can get onto doing what clubs do best -running rallies for riders of all abilities to provide them with the best pony club experiences possible

We all need to remember that Pony Club is an equestrian association like many others, but what holds us above the rest is that fact that Pony Club is not primarily about competition. The main focus is the rider's skills development and education which is gained through ensuring the syllabus of instruction is a part of rally planning.

I want to take the time tonight to thank the many wonderful DCs and coaches throughout the Midland Zone who go out of their way to ensure riders are continually learning and being provided with an all-round Pony Club education.

Linda Gerring

Midland Zone Chief Instructor

Midland Zone Chief Examiner Report 2021

As with everything in life, COVID has impacted certificate work over the last 12 months. The introduction of the new syllabus and the Equitation Science components has been made more difficult with the interruption of face to face training for coaches as well as reduced rallies to implement training.

In regards to c certificate, it has also been a year of changes in regards to the format of the written work of C certificates. Candidates are now required to nominate 8 weeks prior to the ridden assessment. They are then sent a link to complete an open book assessment which they complete and submit online. So workbooks are no longer required to be posted with nomination. We were the first zone to trial this new online assessment and with only one minor issue, it has worked well. From next year I hope to have the nomination process all completed online as well.

I would like to thank the C candidates for their patience where changes have had to be made and for being so willing to work with me to make things happen when COVID has impacted assessments. The August 2020 round of c certificates had to be pushed back several times and was finally completed on November 29th. We had 10 candidates successfully pass, 8 of them new candidates and two who sat supps from previous rounds.

We also had another round earlier this year, where we had our first candidates present to be assessed under the new syllabus which was really exciting. It was a mixed day as we also had candidates presenting for assessment under the old syllabus, which was the final opportunity to do so. I thank the candidates and parents for their patience and we flicked between new and old requirements. We had 3 candidates successful on the day, 3 required to do a small supp, one of which has now completed.

Thanks to our examiners for the previous 12 months, Trista Hoyland and myself. We also had Kylie Janetzki shadow assess. Thanks to Ararat and Mandurang South for hosting this year.

A final reminder, that from now on all certificates must be assessed under the new syllabus, including the lower levels assessed at club level.

Nicole Chalmers