

## Midland Zone Delegates Meeting - MINUTES

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	Maryborough Golf Club
<b>Meeting open</b>	7.35pm	
<b>Attendance</b>	Ararat: Helen Spencer	Bealiba: Carolyn Stephenson
	Beaufort:	Bendigo: apologies
	Castlemaine:	Charlton: Kaye Blanchard
	Donald:	Harcourt: Tony Thornycroft , Camille Dowling , Lilly Jackson
	Horsham: apologies	Learmonth: Linda Fahy
	Loddon:	Maldon:
	Mandurang Sth: Kira Chalmers, Jade Horton, Laura Ednie	Maryborough: Bronwyn Ballesty, Linda Gerring, Pat Hedger, Jessica Guess, Nicole Kendt
	Neangar Park:	Stawell: apologies
		Midland Zone: Bronwyn Cuthbertson (Beaufort), Peggy Mills (Harcourt), Julie Gould (Bealiba), Debbie Weir (Bealiba), Nicki Chalmers (MandurangSth).
<b>Apologies</b>	Jen Pollard (Bendigo), Sue Harvey (Bendigo), Emelia Sudholz (Horsham), Asher Fiedler (Horsham), Paris Feidler (Horsham), Kylie Fiedler (Horsham), Ingrid Gould (Bealiba), Narrelle O'Callaghan (Stawell), Emma Noonan, Jill Marshall (Ararat), Gemma McGrath (Charlton ).	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Action/Discussion</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
1. Confirmation of Previous Minutes	<b>MOTION:2025.12.01</b> The minutes of the previous meeting be accepted as true and correct. Moved: BCuthbertson Seconded: JGould	Correction in treasurers report, correct \$4000 to \$400 in relation to SJ & Flat teams event financial loss
2. Business Arising		
	2.1. MZ trailers permanent home	Completed. Trailers can now be moved to new secure home at Bealiba PC grounds. <b>ACTION: consider installation of trackers in Dressage &amp; SJ trailers.</b>
	2.2. Games Trailer	No action completed ? equipment to Kay Irving or Prince Phillip rules <b>ACTION – question to PCV re equipment to be used at state events for zone training – follow up with Dan – action by Nicki at state council</b> ? Letter to games committee rationale for equipment
	2.3 Dressage Trailer equipment purchase.	Measuring wheels x 3 purchased, one for each MZ equipment trailer.
	2.4 Consideration that adult members have same opportunities at state level as junior/senior riders	Nicki suggested that this be held until after the state strategic plan available to enable the rationale to align. Have expected Strategic plan available in Oct but not yet published. Noted adult riders at Nationals and adults aged 18-25 already competing against junior riders. <b>ACTION: Paris &amp; Nicki to forward letter to State Council and PCV board in 2026.</b>

<b>3. Correspondence In</b>		
Clubs	Horsham PC – 2026 calendar dates	
	Mandurang Sth – 2026 calendar dates	
	Maldon PC – 2026 calendar dates	
	Ararat PC – club officials update	Nominated DC – Jill Marshall
	Donald PC – grant support request	
	Donald PC – SJ Trailer response	
PCV	New website, request clubs update club info on justgo.	
PCA	Reminder to clubs to set up the Adyen Account for JustGo	
<b>4. Correspondence Out</b>	Via JustGo – delegates meeting minutes	
	Via JustGo – to clubs, list of current members not receiving JustGo emails from MZ.	Contact with JustGo offered to support members to ensure they receive MZ emails.
	MZ letter of support for Donald PC application to Sports Club infrastructure grant.	
	Donald PC – SJ trailer return conditions.	
		<b>MOTION: 2025.12.02</b> That the correspondence be accepted Moved: BCuthbertson Seconded:
<b>5. Reports</b>	<b>Action/Discussion</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
President		
Treasurer	Financial Statements – Appendix 1 \$5517 held as separate asset (St Arnaud funds) Other St Arnaud assets – containers and SJ equip now being used by HRCav club and unlikely to relinquish. ? invoice for the value of the equipment. Computer sash – place ribbons ordered. Note interest rates have decreased.	<b>ACTION: Nicki Chalmers to follow in Jan as 12mth recess will be finalised.</b>  <b>MOTION: 2025.12.03</b> That the treasurers report be accepted. Moved: DWeir Seconded: PHedger
Zone Rep	See Appendix 2	<b>MOTION: 2025.12.04</b> That the MZ rep report be accepted Moved: NChalmers Seconded: CStephenson
Zone Chief Instructor	See Appendix 3. Report read by Julie Gould	<b>MOTION: 2025.12.05</b> That the MZ Chief Instructor report be accepted. Moved: JGould Seconded: CStephenson
Zone Examining Secretary	Report read. See appendix 4. 2026 dates now set. ? pre assessment day for B Cert discussed by DCI.	<b>MOTION: 2025.12.06</b> That the MZ Examining Secretary report be accepted. Moved: KChalmers

	Concerns re online workbook difficulties for both students and assessors.	Seconded: PMills <b>ACTION: suggested that CI Panel (Kira/Kylie/Linda) draft letter of concerns re the C cert Jot form in online assessment altering student answers.</b>
<b>6. Zone Events:</b>	<b>Action/Discussion</b>	<b>Outcome</b>
6.1 NCAS Training & Assessment Weekend	22-23 november	
6.2 Midland Zone Dressage & SJ Qualifiers	Section C 13-14 December @ Mandurang South PC	Section working well to prepare for event. Entries – total 85 riders -65 SJ/60 D
6.3 2026 calendar	MZ events confirmed for 2026 calendar	.
<b>7. General Business:</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Outcome/Action</b>
7.1	Dressage Competition 2026	Suggestion to make this a Jackpot at the MZ Qualifying Dressage event <b>ACTION: survey to SJ &amp; D competitors and MZ clubs</b>
	Proposal to change Midland Zone Sections. See options appendix 1	Maryborough alternative option. <b>MOTION: 2025.12.07</b> Sections to be decided on maximum distance travelled between clubs. Moved: LGerring Seconded: CDowling Vote: FOR – 4 AGAINST – 3 carried See appendix 5 for new sections list
<b>Around the Clubs</b>		
Bendigo	Finally, we were handed back our relocated clubrooms by Council last week - a fair bit of work still ahead for us and lots of working bees in cleaning up, moving back into the clubrooms and sorting out our shed and more, but we are celebrating this big milestone!	
<b>Meeting Closed</b>	<b>9.40pm</b>	
<b>Next Meeting:</b>	<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>	<b>Online meeting</b>

## Balance Sheet

Midland Zone Pony Club

As at 8 December 2025

8 DEC 2025

### Assets

Bank		
Midland Zone		12,043.85
Midland Zone Term Deposit		10,767.54
<b>Total Bank</b>		<b>22,811.39</b>
Fixed Assets		
Recess Clubs funds on hold		(5,517.98)
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>		<b>(5,517.98)</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>17,293.41</b>

## Account Transactions

Midland Zone Pony Club

For the period 27 October 2025 to 8 December 2025

DATE	SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE	DEBIT	CREDIT
<b>Midland Zone</b>					
<b>Opening Balance</b>				<b>18,105.51</b>	-
3 Nov 2025	Receive Money	Judy Martin		30.00	-
10 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Xero Accounting	XEROAUSTRALIAPTY 0456617163 XeroAUIINV_TP3NXJGL	-	71.25
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Emelia Sudholz		-	160.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Brianna Ballesty		-	160.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Nicki Chalmers		-	264.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Trista Hoyland		-	150.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Kellie Barnett		-	160.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Nicki Chalmers		-	378.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Eddington Engineering		-	2,884.00
16 Nov 2025	Spend Money	NG & JE McEwen		-	300.00
24 Nov 2025	Spend Money	Computer Sashes		-	1,564.41
<b>Total Midland Zone</b>				<b>30.00</b>	<b>6,091.66</b>
<b>Closing Balance</b>				<b>12,043.85</b>	-
<b>Total</b>				<b>30.00</b>	<b>6,091.66</b>

Another year is coming to an end. As I sat down to write this report, I had just finished a day of celebration with a beautiful group of students. This semester we focused on social skills and teamwork. As part of our celebration, we reflected on where these students were at the beginning of the sessions and where they are now. We reflected on what they had learned, but more importantly, how that learning has improved their quality of life.

Over two terms, these students have worked hard to build confidence in social situations. They learned to identify their strengths and to feel proud and confident in them. They also looked at areas they could improve and learned how to work together by using their strengths to support one another's challenges.

At the beginning of the semester, we completed a teamwork activity and the group could not complete it. No one could listen or accept others' ideas. Everyone wanted to be in charge. Very few shared what they were thinking. It

ended with students stomping off to different corners of the room and a small group with similar ideas trying to carry on alone.

In the final session, we completed the same teamwork activity again and this time it was a success. The team had developed trust in one another. They no longer feared what others might say or do. They shared their ideas. They were able to accept ideas that differed from their own and see them not as criticism, but as collaboration. When someone was struggling, there was someone there to lend a hand. They smiled, they laughed and when they finished, they cheered and hugged. I sat back and watched with a little happy tear in my eye. For these kids weren't a group who you'd put together in usual circumstances, and all had their own struggles.

I believe there is a powerful lesson here for our Pony Club community. What we expect of our children, we must first be willing to model ourselves. The children in our clubs are the future of our clubs. As an association facing challenges, it is more important than ever that we show our young people what strong, respectful teamwork looks like, not just within our club teams but across our entire zone. Teams are not just about what we gain, but what we contribute. and genuine team members are not only concerned with their personal gain, but with how their actions impact the team, the culture they help create and the future they are shaping.

I often refer to Midland Zone as "my zone." Not in terms of ownership, but in belonging. Not "mine" as possession, but "ours" as a shared community. No club belongs to any one person. An effective team does need strong leaders, but it also needs trust, respect, communication and a willingness to listen, learn and work together.

Let us give our children not just skills for sport, but a living example of collaboration, leadership and community they can carry with them into the future.

That said, I would like to thank every member for everything they contribute, big or small, to our Pony Club community. It truly takes a village, and the roads from that village lead to so many amazing destinations. Thanks for being on the road to success in our mighty midland zone.

I wish everyone a very merry safe and happy Christmas and new year period. Enjoy the break, and I look forward to seeing everyone again in 2026 for an even bigger, better and brighter pony club year.

*Nicki Chalmers*

## **APPENDIX 3            MIDLAND ZONE Chief Instructors Report December 2025**

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1. **Coach training and assessment weekend.** 22/23 November, in Castlemaine. Was well attended by zone participants and outside our zone participants. We had 18 registered people to attend all activities.

I braved it by presenting the lunging session, going through the safety, gear required and basic practices for C\*/K level. Shelley McRae delivered the jumping lines and poles incorporating metronomes and including the syllabus into lesson plans.

We had 2 level 1 coaches and 6 preliminary coaches be assessed on the Sunday. 3 of whom were trainee coaches from Maryborough Pony Club and 1 from Bendigo Pony Club and 1 from Bealiba Pony Club. Others were from outside our zone.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind all clubs DC/coaches that we all need to be following the syllabus of instruction and creating awareness for both horse and riders at club level. There were a couple of incidents over the two days that were witnessed by some that was not appropriate safety and welfare. One was two you children in the round yard, with one child (no helmet) was chasing the pony of a rider with a dressage whip to get it going. Another was ponies being left in yards with saddles still on them with stirrups left hanging and the ponies were not tied up, but just walking around the yards with saddles still on them. Another was a young child sitting on a pony in a yard with no helmet on.

2. Coaching Grant Application: with the help from Linda Gerring, a grant has been applied for of up to \$5000 for future coaching development workshops for 2025 and early 2026. This will enable all zone coaches/riders to be able to attend various workshops, free of charge. They will also be open to everyone within the state. Workshops to include are rider position, course building and equitation science related lessons.

## APPENDIX 4 EXAMINING SECRETARY REPORT

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Dates for 2026 have been set:

**April 18–19**

**September 26–27**

Please note that if you intend to qualify for state events in 2026 and require your **C Certificate**, make sure to mark the above dates in your calendar.

I would also like to remind members that **closing dates for certificate nominations are firm**, and late nominations **cannot** be accepted, as written exams must be completed and corrected prior to the ridden exam.

Further details and the nomination link will be emailed out in 2026, so keep an eye out if you require them.

If you have any questions regarding the process, please reach out to me.

Thank you all for your support throughout 2025. I look forward to assisting more riders on their certificate journey in 2026.

Thanks *Kira Chalmers*

## APPENDIX 5

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MIDLAND ZONE SECTION ACCORDING TO TOTAL DISTANCE BETWEEN CLUBS.		
SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3
Ararat	Bealiba	Bendigo
Charlton	Beaufort	Castlemaine
Donald	Loddon	Harcourt
Horsham	Maryborough	Learmonth
Stawell		Maldon
		Mandurang South
		Neangar Park
<i>Total 133km max distance</i>	<i>Total 139km max distance</i>	<i>Total 143km max distance</i>