

Midland Zone Delegates Meeting - MINUTES

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| Date: | Tuesday 10 th February 2025 | Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82370868849?pwd=JVpUT0JowbdDrWmIHlurkIT3sYuKb6.1 |
| Meeting open | 7.30pm | |
| Attendance | Ararat: Helen Spencer | Bealiba: Carolyn Stephenson, Jade Horton, Ingrid Gould |
| | Beaufort: | Bendigo: Jen Pollard, Susan harvey |
| | Castlemaine: | Charlton: |
| | Donald: | Harcourt: |
| | Horsham: | Learmonth: |
| | Loddon: | Maldon: |
| | Mandurang Sth: | Maryborough: Linda Gerring |
| | Neangar Park: | Stawell: |
| | Midland Zone: Bronwyn Cuthbertson, Nicki Chalmers, Debbie Weir, Peggy Mills, Julie Gould | |
| Apologies | Kylie Fiedler (Horsham), Emelia Sudholz (Horsham), Jill Marshall (Ararat), Kira Chalmers (MSPC), Pat Hedgers (Maryborough), Deb Ruff (Maryborough), Kylie Kirk (horsham), Bronwyn Ballesty (Maryborough), Paris Fiedler (Horsham). | |
| Item | Action/Discussion | Outcome |
| 1. Confirmation of Previous Minutes | Motion 2026.02.01 That the minutes of the previous minutes are correct and be accepted. Moved: Linda Gerring Seconded: Bronwyn Cuthbertson | Reword 2.3 to better reflect discussion |
| 2. Business Arising | | |
| | 2.1. MZ equipment trailers | Consider installation of trackers in Dressage & SJ trailers. ACTION: Linda Gerring to source information Both trailers now housed at Bealiba PC, key pad on gates. General maintenance completed before storage. Ongoing planning for general maintenance check such as tyres, etc before next use. Purchase portable tyre pump to be stored in each trailer – to be charged by using club. ACTION – Julie to purchase portable air compressor x 3 (Kmart \$25 each) |
| | 2.2. Games Trailer | 2026 state GFM schedule out. Will have all equipment purchased with grant money and grant acquittal completed by MZ may event. Trailer not yet sandblasted & painted, plan for completion over winter. |
| | 2.4 Consideration that adult members have same opportunities at state level as junior/senior riders | ACTION: Paris & Nicki to forward letter to State Council and PCV board in 2026. Nicki to write letter to state with Paris. |
| | 2.5 Suggested at previous meeting that CI Panel (Kira/Kylie/Linda) draft letter of concerns re the C cert Jot form in online assessment altering student answers. | |
| 3. Correspondence In | | |

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| Clubs | Horsham PC – 2026 calendar date change | |
| | Bendigo PC – uniform query | Does the club require approval to add "BENDIGO" on the back of our polo tops? Refer to national gear check rules - Lettering not more than 50mm in height |
| | | |
| Other: | Showjump trailer hire – Girton Interschool Event @ Elmore 2 nd May. | approved |
| 4. Correspondence Out | Via JustGo – delegates meeting minutes | |
| 5. Reports | Action/Discussion | Outcome |
| Treasurer | Appendix 1 – report provided Event secretary invoice attached. Successful event with pro Clubs x 6 still to pay MZ \$90 annual fee | Hire of radios – form needs updating, add Kira as contact. Motion 2026.02.02. That the financial report be accepted. Moved: Debbie Weir Seconded: Peggy Mills |
| Zone Rep | Report read – see appendix 2 | New helmet standards coming soon. Reminder to all to read the PCA rules before purchasing a new helmet. Sales staff not always up to date. ACTION: Nicki to post on facebook to clarify rule change. Motion 2026.02.03. That the MZ Rep report be accepted. Moved: Nicki Chalmers Seconded: Linda Gerring |
| Zone Chief Instructor | Report provided – see appendix 3 Read by president Julie Gould. | Congratulation to Asher & Kylie on B certificate. Good luck to Asher and Paris on the A certificate Julie Gould on behalf of Kylie Fiedler Nicki Chalmers |
| Zone Examining Secretary | | |
| 6. Zone Events: | Action/Discussion | Outcome |
| 6.1 Midland Zone Dressage & SJ Qualifiers | Section C 13-14 December @ Mandurang South PC | |
| 6.2 Teams GFM Qualifying | May – section 3 | ACTION: nicki chalmers to send post to all clubs in section |
| 6.3 MZ HT | April – section 2 Maryborough to confirm | ACTION: nicki chalmers to send post to all clubs in the section |
| 7. General Business: | Discussion | Outcome/Action |
| 7.1 | Dressage Competition 2026 | ACTION: survey to SJ & D competitors and MZ clubs Survey yet to be completed |
| 7.2 | Section rotation review | HT are a more intensive section activity, therefore paired each year with NCAS weekend Share MZ shield event and SJ/D qualifiers in two sections. |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| | | <p>MOTION 2026.02.04: That we accept the proposal for MZ events for 2026-2028 as provided.</p> <p>Moved: Linda Gerring</p> <p>Seconded: Debbie Weir Carried</p> |
| 7.3 | 2029 HT – MZ host. | <p>? set up subcommittee and encourage senior rider/young adult members</p> <p>? Plan for Charlton in 2028 to support for possible Charlton for state event, to have worked on this venue for the year before.</p> |
| 7.4 | First aid at MZ events | <p>Need to clarify volunteer and payments for role. First aider has single role at events. At last event, multiple people involved to cover full event. ? anyone received payments. Other volunteer roles do not receive payment.</p> <p>HLTAID012 (adv), many training renewals due this year.</p> <p>Minimum Medical Standards (MMS). minimal events that require HLTAID012, majority of MZ events only require HLTAID011 (level 2)</p> <p>MMS currently under revision, and expectation that these will downgrade requirements.</p> <p>Maldon running HLTAID012 in March, Maryborough in June.</p> <p>MZ HT will pay advanced first aiders HLTAID012, all other MZ events are Level 2 first aid HLTAID011 and unpaid volunteer.</p> |
| 7.5 | Hiring of Show Jumping Timers to MZ clubs | <p>People need to know how to use these</p> <p>History has shown that not all users are protective of MZ equipment.</p> <p>? MZ run an accreditation process for safe operating procedures (SOP), esp the packing up at end of the day.</p> <p>Suggest, anyone hiring equipment must have someone who has completed this process.</p> <p>? utilise MZ events for accreditation.</p> <p>Thought needed for where these units are to be housed for protection and maintenance.</p> <p>ACTION. MZ exec to plan SOP, first accreditation day at MZ HT. Nicki & Julie to lead.</p> |
| 7.6 | Whip rule – PCV vs PCA Confusing at gear check | <p>PCV Rider grading vs PCA Horse Height</p> <p>ACTION: All present to email Nicki with thought on this for Nicki to take to State discussion</p> <p>Comment. Rider grading important – example of gd 3 rider on pony would be limited to crop vs dressage whip will impact on horse performance – disadvantage for higher grade riders on smaller horses.</p> <p>Suggestion that there be option for exemption for higher grade riders.</p> |

| Around the Clubs | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Ararat | 2 rallies this year, weather hot. Mock HT in Jan. Enjoyed by members. Dressage feedback. Half R2R on weekend, finished early due to heat. Ground breaking on arena on Monday. Plan for completion end of April. |
| Bealiba | Very busy start to year, clinic well supported. SJ & D championsip weekend successful and thank you to all club members and friends of Bealiba, voulteers outside the club very supportive. Clinic (Alan Mitchell)and rally this weekend. Other PC members welcolme. |
| Beaufort | No rally yet this year. |
| Bendigo | 1 rally this year, moving back into clubrooms, moving lots of stuff MZ SJ weekend, great weekend, wondering about date so close to Christmas. State event in Feb, Jan not suitable for qualifiers, earlier than Dec too distant from state event. Loose Horse at SJ event, open gate specific to venue requirement, event safety now aware Freshmans SJ coming up, excited about first completion at new grounds. |
| Castlemaine | |
| Charlton | Gemma Pridgeon – no rally yet, attending Bealiba on Sunday. Planning for club 50 th Birthday this year. Info shared with community for memorabilia 15 th March. Skills demonstrations from members, normal rally to showcase to community. Previous members rsvp at 50! Charlotte Steward awarded Young Citizen for her Local Gov area. |
| Donald | |
| Harcourt | Rally/clinic next weekend as part of course building clinic with freshmnans training rounds. Working towards HT in March. |
| Horsham | Congratulations to Iris Sudholz who has been nominated/candidate for Youth Star and Sports Star of the year |
| Learmonth | |
| Loddon | |
| Maldon | |
| Mandurang South | Jade – thankyou for everyone’s support at the recent MZ event. Working with the reserve management regarding the gate management for events. No rally due to weather concerns. Instructors planned for 2026 rallies. Open to combined rallies, keen encourage clubs, this will support with reducing costs and instructor access. |
| Maryborough | Held 2 rallies this year, summer rally camp, 2 days with sleep over and early morning ride (5am). Hot weather accommodation, morning trail ride. Coaching pool working well, level 1 and preliminary. Membership remains strong, new R3R. Scoot boot sponsorship available club code offers 10% discount – any other club members interested, please reach out to Maryborough. |
| Neangar Park | |
| Stawell | |
| Meeting Closed | 2127 |
| Next Meeting: | Tuesday 14th April 2026 |
| | Face to face meeting St Arnaud Julie to organise venue. ? sporting club available. |

Balance Sheet

Midland Zone Pony Club

As at 9 February 2026

9 FEB 2026

Assets

Bank

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Midland Zone | 16,361.23 |
| Midland Zone Term Deposit | 10,767.54 |
| Total Bank | 27,128.77 |

Midland Zone Transactions

Midland Zone Pony Club

For the period 9 December 2025 to 9 February 2026

| DATE | SOURCE | DESCRIPTION | REFERENCE | CREDIT | DEBIT |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------|---|------------------|---------------|
| Midland Zone | | | | | |
| Opening Balance | | | | 12,043.85 | - |
| 9 Dec 2025 | Spend Money | Xero Accounting | XEROAUSTRALIAPTY 0464876319 XeroAUIINV_TZJGKgbZ | - | 71.25 |
| 9 Dec 2025 | Spend Money | Charlotte Stewart | | - | 160.00 |
| 20 Dec 2025 | Spend Money | Julie Gould | | - | 155.00 |
| 4 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Ararat Pony Club | INV-0104 | 90.00 | - |
| 5 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Donald Pony Club | INV-0111 | 90.00 | - |
| 5 Jan 2026 | Spend Money | Ingrid Gould | | - | 160.00 |
| 5 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Mandurang South Pony Club | INV-0117 | 90.00 | - |
| 5 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Harcourt PC | INV-0112 | 90.00 | - |
| 5 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Learmonth PC | INV-0114 | 90.00 | - |
| 5 Jan 2026 | Receive Money | Event Secretary | | 3,767.20 | - |
| 7 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Bealiba Pony Club | INV-0106 | 90.00 | - |
| 7 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Horsham PC | INV-0113 | 90.00 | - |
| 8 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Maryborough PC | INV-0118 | 90.00 | - |
| 8 Jan 2026 | Receive Money | Harriet Williams | | 55.00 | - |
| 9 Jan 2026 | Spend Money | Xero Accounting | XEROAUSTRALIAPTY 0473279675 XeroAUIINV_Tku9anpo | - | 71.25 |
| 14 Jan 2026 | Receive Money | Annika Hall | | 50.00 | - |
| 17 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Castlemaine Pony Club | INV-0109 | 90.00 | - |
| 25 Jan 2026 | Receivable Payment | Payment: Maldon Pony Club | INV-0116 | 90.00 | - |
| 26 Jan 2026 | Spend Money | Vic Roads Rego | | - | 68.66 |
| 3 Feb 2026 | Receive Money | Anna Leahy | | 50.00 | - |
| 4 Feb 2026 | Receive Money | Bealiba Pony Club | | 100.00 | - |
| 4 Feb 2026 | Receive Money | Bealiba Pony Club | | 100.00 | - |
| 4 Feb 2026 | Receive Money | Bealiba Pony Club | | 50.00 | - |
| 7 Feb 2026 | Spend Money | Julie Gould | | - | 68.66 |
| Total Midland Zone | | | | 5,072.20 | 754.82 |
| Closing Balance | | | | 16,361.23 | - |
| Total | | | | 5,072.20 | 754.82 |

Zone Rep Report – 10/2/26

Welcome everyone to the 2026 Pony Club year. Many clubs are now back in action following the break.

State Zone Advisory Panel meetings will be held monthly this year rather than the usual bi-monthly schedule. Our first meeting for the year was held last week.

Preparations for the State Showjumping and Dressage Championships, to be held at Warrnambool on 21–22 February, are progressing well. Entries closed on Monday and today reserve riders were balloted and positions offered. I was advised today that all yards are now fully booked. Any riders who have not secured a yard will be required to BYO. Alternatively, a club located approximately 30 minutes from the grounds has offered free use of their facilities.

I can also confirm that the grounds are being watered in preparation for the event. A Rider's Retreat lounge will be available for competitors to escape the heat and there is nearby beach access for riders wishing to cool their horses.

At this stage we have the following riders attending:

SHOWJUMPING

B Grade

Iris Sudholz – Blaze – Horsham

Iris Sudholz – River – Horsham

C Grade

Chloe Bedggood* – Bakery Hill – Ararat

Natalie Marshall – Kings Jewels – Ararat

D Grade

Matilda Favalaro – Andlyn Park Soldier Boy – Bendigo

Chloe Bedggood – Boots Tarrington – Ararat

Charlee Dowler – Nawarrah Park True Grit – MSPC

Alice Hogan – Rubywood CAI – Maldon

DRESSAGE

Advanced

Asha Fiedler – Talingka Park Matthias – Horsham

Grade 1

Brianna Ballesty – Maryborough

Grade 2

Asha Fiedler – Dudley – Horsham

Charlee Dowler – Nawarrah Park True Grit – MSPC

Grade 3

Alice Hogan – Rubywood CAI – Maldon

Charlotte Evans – Carrington Park Fallon – MSPC

Harriet Williams – Elfrieda – Maldon

Rodalie Needham – Mirinda – Maryborough

Grade 4

Anna Leahy – Benny – Ararat

Annika Hall – Heysen Bolshoi – MSPC

Lily Gillespie – Maple – Maldon

A significant portion of the meeting related to rules. As these have not yet been approved, I cannot go into specifics. However, there was discussion around expanding horse abuse rules to better align with EA and FEI standards. Topics included jumping from a standstill, blood in the mouth and excessive whip use. There was considerable discussion around how to balance our role as an educational organisation while clearly reinforcing that horse welfare is of utmost importance and ill-treatment will not be tolerated. As a result, the aim is to implement on-the-spot penalties supported by a clear and simple warning system.

There was also further discussion regarding Victorian whip rules following feedback from members. Currently, national gear rules base whip length on pony or horse height, whereas Victoria bases whip length on rider grade. As many members refer only to the national rules, this has caused confusion. Zones have been asked to provide feedback on whether Victoria should remain grade-based or align with the national horse-height system.

Concerns were raised regarding new charges for coaches attending state workshops for assessment, including a \$150 fee for trainee coaches. Many members who previously purchased the coaching resources were advised that assessment costs were included. It appears this change was implemented without consultation. Efforts are

underway to rectify this and ensure that those affected are treated in line with the conditions under which they originally enrolled.

I have also received questions regarding changes to helmet standards. It was confirmed that PCA has advised an update is pending following a Safety Committee meeting this week. New rules are expected but not yet confirmed. Current helmets remain compliant at this time and it is anticipated that any changes will be introduced gradually. I would also like to highlight the importance of relying on official PCA communications rather than information provided by retail staff, as misinformation can sometimes be circulated.

Nicki Chalmers

MIDLAND ZONE Chief Instructors Report February 2026

1. **Coach training and assessment weekend.** 22/23 November, in Castlemaine. Activities covered were Lunging, Including the Syllabus into lessons, Jumping lines and poles. These topics were put forward from members of Midland Zone. It was great to see many of our zone coaches attending the Saturday sessions and we had a good number of trainee coaches gain their coaching accreditation on the Sunday. There was great feedback from the weekend through the PCV feedback questionnaire. Our next Coach training and assessment weekend will be again in November this year.
2. **B Certificate** – Asha Fiedler (Horsham Pony Club) and myself travelled to Warnambool in the Wannon Zone on the weekend of January 10th and 11th for our B Certificate Assessments.

Asha was able to achieve her B Certificate fully (with the jumping version of 95cm), over the weekend, with myself needing to go back to jump an 85cm show jumping course.

The B Certificate consisted of an online exam, to which candidates need to achieve 80% or higher to pass, and submit a journal on a new skill. (non jumping version of the B Certificate)

Written journal of their journey with their horse, covering training, competitions, day to day care, feed, vet, coaching, farriering, etc etc costs. Heart and temperature readings also need to be shown amongst lots of things, which is over 1 or two years.

Other components were knowledge and demonstration of the rules for show jumping and cross country along with course design. Candidates are required to submit a show jumping course and set it up, and walk the course and discuss it with the assessors.

Lunging, complete with side reins, ground work, extensive veterinary kit, bandaging with blanket stitch, feeding, float maintenance, riding on the flat, assessment riding an unfamiliar horse are all part of the assessment too.

It was two very long days, but an overall wonderful experience to be a part of to not only be able to showcase my skills learned over my life, but also to have gain knowledge of many new ones.

Asha and Paris Fiedler will now begin their A Certificate journey.

3. **Grant Funding Application** – Linda Gerring has applied for a Government Grant for funding to run coaching clinics throughout the year to cover costs associated with travel and accommodation and facilitator costs. We are yet to find out if we were successful in this. More of this later. Many thanks to Linda for submitting this for me.

Cheers

Kylie Fiedler

MZ Chief Instructor

| SECTIONS (based on travel distance within the section) | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Ararat Charlton Donald Horsham Stawell | Bealiba Beaufort Loddon Maryborough | Bendigo Castlemaine Harcourt Learmonth Maldon Mandurang South Neangar Park |

| | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Midland Zone Horse Trials (April) | Charlton | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Midland Zone Games/Flat/Musical/Pairs (May) | Bealiba | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Midland Zone AGM (August) | Bendigo | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Midland Zone SJ & Flat Team Shield (August) | Horsham | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| NCAS Training & Assessment Weekend (Nov) | Castlemaine | 2 | 3 | 1 |
| Midland Zone Dressage & SJ Qualifiers (Dec) | MSPC | 1 | 2 | 3 |