

## Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Midland Zone of Pony Club Association of Victoria Inc. for the year 2024-2025.

Date: Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August 2025

Venue: National Hotel Motel, 182 High St Bendigo

**Meeting opened: 8.19 pm**

### Welcome and Introductions:

### Attendance:

Ararat: APOLOGIES	Bealiba: Carolyn Stephenson, Debbie Weir, Julie Gould, Ingrid Gould
Beaufort: Bronwyn Cuthbertson	Bendigo:
Castlemaine:	Charlton: Gemma Pridgeon
Donald: apologies	Harcourt: Tony Thornycroft, Camille Dowling, Lily Jackson, Jan Williams, Aubree McIntryre
Horsham: APOLOGIES	Learmonth: APOLOGIES
Loddon:	Maldon: Gemma Fennell
Mandurang Sth: Kira Chalmers, Nicki Chalmers, Jade Horton, Laura Ednie	Maryborough: Linda Gerring, Debbie Ruff, Jess Geus
Neangar Park: APOLOGIES	Stawell: APOLOGIES
MZ Life Members: Sue Foley (Bendigo PC), Peggy Mills (Harcourt PC), Kaye Blanchard (Charlton PC), Pat Hedger (Maryborough PC).	

### Apologies:

Loris Cole (LM), Ann Marston (LM), Narelle O'Callaghan (Stawell PC), Jill Marshal (Ararat PC), Neangar Park PC, Helen Spencer (Ararat PC), Emelia Sudholz (Horsham PC), Bronwyn Ballesty (Maryborough PC).

**Motion 2025.01** That the apologies to the MZ 2025 AGM be accepted.  
Moved: Julie Gould                      Seconded: Debbie Weir                      Accepted

### Acceptance of Minutes of Previous Annual General Meeting:

2024 minutes provided.

### Motion 2025.02

That the minutes of the 2024 AGM be accepted as true and accurate.

Moved: Julie Gould                      Seconded: Debbie Weir                      Accepted

### Executive Committee Reports:

#### 1. President's Report

Read by Sue Foley on behalf of Peggy Mills.

**Motion 2025.03** That the Presidents report be accepted.

Moved: Peggy Mills                      Seconded: Nicki Chalmers

# MIDLAND ZONE of pony club association of Victoria inc.

Treasurer's Report

Presented Debbie Weir.

Current balance of \$33,251.33. Noting significant expenses for equipment housing and containers at Beabliba, and mentioned ongoing delays in completing the engineering for gates due to communication issues with the engineering team. Deb confirmed that this project is expected to start next week, and she will follow up with the office to resolve any further delays.

**Motion 2025.04** That the Treasures report be accepted.

Moved: Debbie Weir

Seconded: Carolyn Stephenson

## Profit and Loss

Midland Zone Pony Club  
For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025
<b>Trading Income</b>	
Certificate - Rider Fee	260.00
Entries	15.00
Equipment Hire	2,400.00
Event Income	6,362.92
Games Flat Musical Pair	(582.47)
Grant Income	963.00
Hire Deposit and Fee radio's	600.00
Hire Deposit and Fee's Dressage Trailer	1,800.00
Interest Income	864.67
Member Saddleblanket purchase	90.00
Member Uniform purchase	520.00
Ride To Time	370.00
SJ & Dressage State Quals	3,335.00
State SJ & D Rider half fee	(347.50)
Zone Annual Fees	1,440.00
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>18,090.62</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	
	<b>18,090.62</b>
Certificate expenses - cards / discs	28.00
Certificate Judges Cost	300.00
Consulting & Accounting	858.00
Dressage Trailer Registration	66.70
Equipment housing	13,627.54
Event Costs	3,671.85
Executive payments	1,954.97
Expenses occurred with Games Trailer	41.00
Expenses occurred with SJ Trailer	562.53
First aid costs to zone	2,100.00
General Expenses	223.00
Horse Trials Expenses	116.00
Insurance	2,269.00
Refund Deposit Fees	4,600.00
SJ & Dressage State Quals Expenses	3,172.83
State Event Costs	100.00
State HT Half Rider Refund	375.00
Website expenses	302.50
zone uniform purchase	459.00
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>34,827.92</b>

## Balance Sheet

Midland Zone Pony Club  
As at 30 June 2025

	30 JUNE 2025	30 JUNE 2024	30 JUNE 2023
<b>Assets</b>			
<b>Bank</b>			
Midland Zone	22,996.53	35,078.52	32,080.56
Midland Zone Term Deposit	10,254.80	9,392.13	28,536.04
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>33,251.33</b>	<b>44,470.65</b>	<b>60,616.60</b>

### Midland Zone Representative Report

Presented by Nicki Chalmers

Good evening club delegates, members, life members, and special guests.

Another 12 months has passed in my role as your Zone Representative, and I still feel incredibly privileged to serve in this position. I remember last year when I filled out my nomination form, wondering why the role was a two-year tenure. Now I understand — it takes about that long to really wrap your head around the job! I've found my place within state council and I appreciate the group that I work amongst and their diversity and support.

This past year has been one of change, growth, and collaboration, with plenty of highlights both on and off the arena for the Midland Zone.

#### State Events & Achievements

It's been another year of outstanding results for our riders, teams, and clubs. Once again, Midland Zone has been proudly represented at state competitions.

Back in August, shortly after our AGM, the **Ride to Time State Championships** were held at Moonee Valley. A big congratulations to Charlotte Evans, who took out first place in the Maiden Section.

In February, the **State Dressage and Showjumping Championships** were held at Tonimbuk. While we didn't bring home ribbons this year, our riders showed consistent, high-quality performances and excellent horsemanship and I think for those who went it will remain a memorable event!

In May, we headed to Rosedale for the **State Horse Trials**, where the cross-country course was particularly challenging. Our riders tackled it with skill and determination. Congratulations to:

- Iris Sudholz – Grade 1 – 3rd place
- Ingrid Gould – Grade 2 – 4th place
- Charlee Dowler – Grade 3 – 5th place
- Maya Dowell – Grade 5 – 5th place
- Alice Hogan – Composite Grade 4 Team – 6th place
- And Team Midland Storm – Ingrid, Iris, and Natalie Marshall – who placed 3rd.

In June, the **Games, Flat, and Musical Ride Championships** at Bacchus Marsh brought even more success:

- Maryborough's *Team of Four* – 1st place - Matilda Burke, Makayla Cocking, Renae Neilsen & Brianna Ballesty
- Maryborough's *Musical Ride* – "The Greatest Showman" – 1st place - Matilda Burke, Makayla Cocking, Renae Neilsen & Brianna Ballesty)

# MIDLAND ZONE of pony club association of Victoria inc.

- Bealiba & Charlton's *Games Team* – “Girls from the Bush” – 3rd place - Charli Catto, Nicole Catto, Violet Stephenson, Charlotte Stewart, Maddi Corcoran & Alyssa Corcoran
- Bealiba's *Pairs* – “Black Beauty & Ginger” – 5th place - Nicole Catto & Charlie Catto
- Bealiba's *Musical Ride* – “Scooby Doo” – 5th place - Victoria Heywood, Carli Catto, Nicole Catto & Aurora Noonan
- Maryborough's *Musical Ride* – “Disney Princess” – 6th place - Ava Lowman, Ella Parker, Nikita Dalton & Nevaeh Geus

While it's wonderful to celebrate competition results, I want to take a moment to celebrate **all** our members — from the three-year-olds still building up the stamina to last a whole rally, to the rider regaining their confidence, to the adults making the most of everything Pony Club has to offer. Achievements aren't always measured in ribbons, and they're not always about riding.

## Off the Horse

In February, at the **PCV Annual Awards presentation**, Bendigo Pony Club was named *PCV Club of the Year*, and Helen Spencer received *Best Achievement by a Rider Over 25*. Truly deserving recognition for both. I also congratulate the other nominees from our zone, it was tough competition, as well as clubs for recognising the worth in our members and taking the time to nominate them.

In December, **Awards of Merit** went to Nicole Catto, Ingrid Gould, and Paris Fiedler, acknowledging their leadership and contributions as senior members of pony club.

In March, it was fantastic to see the **newly re-built Charlton cross-country course** put to use for our Zone Horse Trials. This was the result of a huge amount of work from the club, the zone, and sections A & B, and the event was a great success.

We also ran our very first **Tetrathlon and Equathon Training Day and Mini-Comp** at Ararat Pony Club with the support and guidance of Kate Thompson, with great feedback and interest in more events like this. It's always wonderful to see new things coming to our zone. One of the best things about pony club is the versatility in equestrian disciplines that our members can participate in — something many other equestrian organisations don't offer.

## Governance & Administration

PCV has seen a lot of changes during the last 12 months. We farewelled Derek O'Leary from the interim Executive Officer role, had a short period with Simon Devine in the position, and now welcome **Meaghan Densley** as EO. We also saw the departure of Coaching and Programs Officer Kath Kindler, with **Jill Taylor** now stepping into that role. My hope is that with some stability in leadership, strategic planning will move to the top of the agenda.

On the zone front, we secured a \$1,000 grant for our **games trailer** — it's not quite ready yet, but work is well underway.

Club visits are back on the agenda, and I've just begun visiting clubs across the zone, particularly smaller clubs and those with new executives, to strengthen connections and offer support.

The executive has also been working hard on improving communications. It's felt at times like a never-ending battle, with technology not always on our side. But we are making progress — the number of people missing important updates has dropped dramatically. That said, this will continue to be a focus, so we can keep improving and make sure our communications are as efficient and reliable as possible.

Rules continue to be one of the things I'm contacted about the most. And I'll say it up front — I don't make the rules. My role is to help and support clubs in navigating and complying with them. I'll be honest — I don't always agree with every rule either — but part of my job is making sure we all work within them. I know there are a lot of rules, and keeping on top of them isn't easy. Every time I open the rule book, I learn something new myself. No one knows them all off the top of their head. That's why the rule book should always be your first point of call — it's your friend.

# MIDLAND ZONE of pony club association of Victoria inc.

What matters is that once you know better, you do better. It's also worth remembering that Pony Club is a grassroots organisation. Our rules are written from the perspective of someone who might know nothing at all about horses — because we cater for all ability levels. They're not there to make life difficult. They're there to keep everyone safe and to build consistency across our association.

## DCI/ZA Panel

**Kylie Janetzki** stepped into the Chief Instructor role, throwing herself into all things coaching with great enthusiasm. The progress we're already seeing in this space across the zone has been such a positive. **Kira Chalmers** has found her feed in the process behind undertaking higher certificates. Assessing is not always easy — every rider is different — and I truly appreciate the way our zones team of examiners remain encouraging, supportive and flexible to help riders succeed. We've also welcomed some new faces to the panel as DCIs and ZAs. Stepping into a new role and adjusting to changes in a committee takes time — working out who's responsible for what and how to operate together smoothly. But I'm really confident in this sub-committee. They've got great energy, clear goals, and a real passion for making positive changes in our zone. So, a big thank you to Kylie, Kira, and every single panel member — your commitment and teamwork make such a difference.

## Acknowledgements

To the **Zone Executive Team** — thank you for your support and teamwork. Committees work best when we lift each other up, use our strengths, and balance each other's weaknesses. I'm truly grateful and appreciative to the team we have and how each and every one contributes.

A special mention to **Zone Event Secretary Jill Marshall**, who is stepping back from the role for now. Jill, thank you for managing our events on top of your already busy life. I'll miss our games of phone tag and the background soundtrack of your sheep, but I know you'll still be there if we need you.

I also want to take a moment to thank the hardworking committees of every single club. As we all know, Pony Club runs entirely on volunteers, and it simply wouldn't exist without you. To our dedicated DCs, club committees, and officials — thank you for the countless hours you put in, for your energy, and for the heart you pour into making your clubs vibrant, welcoming, and fun.

And most of all, thank you to every rider, coach, volunteer, official, and supporter who makes the Mighty Midland Zone what it is. Your dedication gives our riders the chance to grow, to compete, and to enjoy everything Pony Club has to offer.

I'm looking forward to another successful year together. Thank you. *Nicki Chalmers*

**Motion 2025.05** That the Zone Rep report be accepted.  
Moved: Nicki Chalmers      Seconded: Ingrid Gould

## Midland Zone Chief Instructors Report

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This has been my first complete year as Midland Zone Chief Instructor and has been a valuable learning experience, learning from more experienced Chief Instructors from other zones.

A successful coaching training and assessment workshop was held in Section A (Ararat) in November 2024.

We have also held two Gear Check Accreditation workshops, in Neangor Park Pony Club and Donald Pony Club with another coming up in October at Bealiba Pony Club.

Our State Coaching Training and Assessment workshop is to be held in Section D this year (venue TBC) and I hope to have a few different activities covered at this weekend.

We welcomed Jen Pollard (Bendigo Pony Club) and Corrine Leah (Stawell Pony Club) as new members to the DCI/ZA panel. I look forward to working with them in the future.

# MIDLAND ZONE of pony club association of Victoria inc.

I would like to be able to run some training days throughout the coming year, with the help from the panel members and clubs, the following activities:

- Vaulting
- Polocrosse
- Mounted Archery
- Lungeing
- Cross Country Accreditation

And anything related to higher certificates that coaches/riders would like covered.

A reminder to all clubs of the State Zoom workshops that occur each month that cover various activities – good for trainee coaches and those coaches that want to refresh anything.

Kind Regards *Kylie Fiedler - MZ Chief Instructor*

## Midland Zone Examining Secretary Report

Presented by Kira Chalmers

Over the past 12 months, we have had great success with C and C\* certificate candidates within our Zone.

In total, eight members have successfully completed their C Certificate, and one rider has achieved their C\* Certificate. A big thank you to Maryborough and Mandurang South Pony Clubs for hosting the certificate assessments, and to our assessors for their time and expertise. It's wonderful to see clubs welcoming riders from other areas, helping to strengthen connections and build a sense of community within the Zone.

The next round of certificates is now open on JustGo (closing on August 29th), with the ridden assessment scheduled for October.

I encourage all clubs to incorporate certificate work into rallies regularly and for coaches to link and refer to it across all disciplines. While this aspect of the syllabus has been in place for some time, assessors are still finding that some riders are unsure about what's required.

For DCs who may be new to their role, please remember that while the C Certificate follows a set format, there are always ways to accommodate riders with different needs. For those with physical or intellectual challenges that don't suit the standard approach, alternative arrangements can be made. Please contact me in advance so we can put together a plan that works for each rider. This flexibility also applies to lower-level certificates, and support is available for clubs that need to adapt assessment methods.

If you are unsure of how to move forward with certificate work, please reach out to me—I'm here to help.

*Kira Chalmers*

**Motion 2025.06** That the Zone Examining Secretary be accepted.

Moved: Kira Chalmers      Seconded: Carolyn Stephenson

## Election of Executive Members

All Executive Positions declared vacant. Sue Foley stepped in to chair the elections

Ballot information and proxy forms not provided to clubs. Review of Constitution Rule 34 and 54, decision made to delay vote for Examining Secretary to next Midland Zone Club Delegates meeting. All clubs will be notified of the voting requirements and given the option to vote on the position.

Nominations received

Executive position	Nominated	Nominated by	
President	Julie Gould Bealiba PC	Horsham PC Kylie Fiedler Paris Fiedler	Accepted
Senior Vice President	Peggy Mills Harcourt PC	Bealiba PC Julie Gould Faye Barnett	Accepted

# MIDLAND ZONE of pony club association of Victoria inc.

Junior Vice President	Kylie Kirk Maldon PC	Bealiba PC Julie Gould Faye Barnett	Accepted
Treasurer	Debbie Weir Bealiba PC	Bealiba PC Julie Gould Faye Barnett	Accepted
Secretary	Bronwyn Cuthbertson	Nicki Chalmers Julie Gould	Accepted
Examining Secretary	Kira Chalmers Mandurang South PC	Mandurang PC Laura Ednie Nicky Dowler	Held over to October Club Delegates meeting
	Linda Gerring Maryborough PC	Horsham PC Kylie Fiedler Paris Fiedler	
Event Secretary	Bronwyn Ballesty Maryborough PC	Horsham PC Kylie Fiedler Paris Fielder	Accepted

Congratulations to the incoming Midland Zone Committee

Thank you from incoming President Julie Gould, encouraging all to contact her by phone, text if needed.

## General Business:

- Review and confirm Midland Zone fees for following year.  
**Motion 2026.07** That the Midland Zone Club Affiliation fee increase to \$100.  
*Moved: Debbie Weir Secoded: Sue Foley Carried*
- Discussion on how to get encourage all 16 Midland Zone clubs to be represented at bi-monthly Club Delegates meetings Discussion on how to inclusion of all MZ clubs in MZ decision making, noted that meeting generally attended by larger clubs and financial decisions may impact on smaller clubs who are often not represented. Suggestions on how to rotate face to face meetings around clubs or offer support to enable attendance.  
**Action** – Julie Gould to contact smaller clubs to discuss possibility to ‘buddy up’ with larger clubs close by to assist attendance.

## Guest Speaker:

**Alison Dohnt**, Equine Practitioner with over 15 years experience at Horses For Hope. Ally's dedication to the healing power of horses has touched many lives and after Horses for Hope's closure, she continues her mission through 'Alison's Equine Embrace.' She will share how horses help individuals heal, connect and rediscover themselves, offering transformative and empowering experienced from emotional breakthrough's to physical recovery.

**Next AGM:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday August 2026

**Meeting Closed: 9.55pm**