

WELCOME TO MOSS VALE PONY CLUB Inc. 2019

President:	Brian Spence
Secretary:	Vanessa Walker
Event Secretary:	Melissa Hayward
Treasurer:	Sandra Quartermaine
Senior Instructor:	Steve Walker
Club Captain:	TBC

Postal Address	PO Box 763 Moss Vale. 2577
Email address	mossvaleponyclub@gmail.com
Website address	http://www.mossvaleponyclub.org.au/
Phone (Vanessa)	0411 094 022

There can be a lot of information for new members and their parents to take in when joining Pony Club, from what uniform to wear when to how to enter competitions to rally day structures. This document provides general information for members of Moss Vale Pony Club Inc, including requirements for safety, uniforms, volunteering, as well as information about rally days and some helpful tips to get you started.

Our Club grounds are located at the Moss Vale Showground, on the Illawarra Highway, at Moss Vale. The Moss Vale Showground is owned by the Moss Vale Show Society Inc., and our Club occupies part of the Showground under an agreement with the Show Society.

Pony Club NSW Rules and structure

Safety of horse and rider is paramount in pony club. As a member of our Club you are also a member of Pony Club NSW, which has strict rules governing most aspects of membership. PCA NSW rules are designed to prevent accidents and injuries. Members are advised to acquaint themselves with the rules as soon as possible, which are available in the Pony Club NSW handbook (the "Blue Book") available on the PCA website www.pcansw.org.au. The Club also holds a copy that members can view at any time.

Pony Club NSW divides clubs into Zones. A number of Zones join together to form an Area. Moss Vale Pony Club is part of Zone 10, which is part of Area N.S.W.

In Zone 10 there are 10 pony clubs:

<i>Berrima</i>	<i>Bundanoon</i>	<i>Cobbity</i>
<i>Ingleburn</i>	<i>Moss Vale</i>	<i>Loopline</i>
<i>The Oaks</i>	<i>Rossmore</i>	<i>Robertson</i>
<i>Wollondilly</i>		



The Zone 10 committee also includes a President, Secretary, Treasurer Meetings are held 4 times a year: 2 near Wollondilly Pony Club and 2 in the southern districts of the zone.

Membership Fees for 2019

- Junior or Associate member - \$150
- Second and subsequent Family Junior Member or Associate - \$140
- Adult Member – Parents/Carers - \$100
- New member fee per family - \$50
- Volunteer Discount - \$20

This fee includes the Pony Club NSW & Australia affiliation and insurance fees (over 50%) and club running costs such as ground fees, insurance, rubbish removal, etc.

The reference to a child/junior is to any person under the age of seventeen (17) years of age. *Moss Vale Pony Club requires all riding members under 17 years to join with a parent / guardian as a member.* This parent/guardian must be on the grounds at all times when the junior members are in attendance.

Voting right is one vote each per associate (17 years & above) and senior financial members.

Note - agreement with Moss Vale Show Society: Moss Vale Pony Club pays an annual fee to the Moss Vale Show Society for the use of the grounds. As part of the agreement with the Show Society the Moss Vale Show Pony Club is responsible for cleaning in and around the stables/yards and the Club House prior to the annual Moss Vale Show. This requires the assistance of all members. If there are insufficient members available or willing to assist with preparing the grounds prior to the Show each year there is a fee passed on to members.

Uniform:

A number of items for the pony club can be purchased new or second hand at the Clubhouse. Details of where to buy items are set out below.

Competition Uniform (Formal Uniform)

- Fawn jodhpurs – available at Saddleries (no banana or white)
- White long-sleeved shirt (**not** polo shirt) – available from Big W, Lowes and uniform shops
- Emerald green tie – available from Moss Vale Pony Club uniform Shop
- Emerald Green woolen jumper and Polo Top – available from Moss Vale Pony Club Uniform Shop
- Club saddle cloth – available from Moss Vale Pony Club Uniform Shop
- Bucket/Cap and hat covers: Moss Vale PC Uniform Shop

Rally Day Uniform (Informal Uniform)

- Same as competition, except Polo shirt may be substituted for Long-sleeved shirt and tie. We have these polo tops for sale at the Clubhouse through our uniform shop.
- A weatherproof jacket is also available with orders taken at the commencement of the year

What to wear when?

Rally days: Emerald green polo top instead of shirt and tie
Gymkhanas: Formal uniform (long sleeve shirt and emerald green tie)
Zone Competitions: Formal uniform (long sleeve shirt ,maroon tie ,maroon jumper)
State competition: Zone uniform
Regional Schools: Formal uniform

Rally Days

Pony Club rally days are generally held on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of every month. However, this is subject to change depending on availability of instructors and other equestrian calendar events.

Gates open at 9:00am and the day finishes at around 3pm.

A reminder is sent to members the week before the rally day, for members to RSVP if they are attending the day. Members are asked **to RSVP via email if they are attending by 6pm on the Friday evening before the day or SMS if email is unavailable**, to enable the Instructors to plan groups and activities.

What happens at a rally day?

Rally Days commence with gear check and troop line at 10am. **We suggest you arrive between 9 - 9:15am to allow time to unload, groom and tack up your horses and for your parents to sign you in.**

Generally 2 sessions are held in the morning with a break for morning tea (usually on horseback) at around 11:15. Lunch is around 12:30pm and there is one session after lunch. These are indicative times and can vary on the day. Beginner riders on the lead are welcome to join for the morning session of riding.

There are lots of different activities that you may participate in at rally day including showjumping, dressage, cross country, troop drill, mounted games, sporting, polocrosse, horse care and theory.

From time to time the Club will arrange specialist clinics to be held in place of a rally day, to encourage rider development in a specific discipline. There may be additional fees associated with these clinics, which are usually subsidised by the Club and offered at a greatly discounted price to members. .

Updates to rally day dates and arrangements such as venues will be posted on Facebook.

At the end of the day all parents and riders are asked to assist with packing up of equipment and tidying of the Club house BEFORE leaving the grounds.

Some important rules to ensure the safety of all riders are:

- An adult must accompany each child to every Rally Day.
- Only Pony Club riding members are permitted to ride at rallies (senior riding members over 25 years are only permitted to ride with the Chief instructor's approval for instruction or demonstration only).
- Riders are also not permitted to ride others members' horses at the rally, without the permission of the horse owners, parents and chief instructor.
- Riders must present themselves for gear check at 10am in a troop line in front of the clubhouse.
- All riders must remain unmounted until gear checked by a club official and advised to mount. If you ride to pony club you must dismount as soon as you arrive.
- When all riders have been checked, they will be organised for their first session.
- Size and composition of groups depends on many factors including age and ability of the rider, number of instructors, and the type of activity. Generally riders of a similar ability and/or age are grouped together.
- At all times riders must stay with their allocated group and walk their horse between lessons (no canter or gallop).
- Parents/ associate riders must sign the attendance book in the Clubhouse to have their attendance formally recorded.
- Every member must make sure the front gates into the Showground are closed behind them after they enter the Showground.

What to wear to a rally day:

- Well fitting approved helmet (see information below)
- Reasonably smooth soled, elastic sided riding boots which meet the requirements in the PCA NSW Handbook.
- Fawn Jodhpurs and Club Polo Shirt (Informal uniform)

Important information about helmets:

- PCA Australia updated the helmet standards for pony club and are below
"Approved equestrian helmets for use at Pony Club are those that carry the ASNZS 3838, ASTM F1163, VG 1 or EN 1384 standard accreditation made up to and including 2015, and specifically designed for equestrian use. The approved equestrian helmet must be correctly fitting (it must not fall forward on to the rider's nose, rotate on the head or obstruct sight in time of emergency) and must have effective retention harness attached and in place under the chin whenever the rider is mounted. A small amount of comfort padding may be added to improve the fit. If a rider's helmet has lost the approved equestrian label the helmet cannot be used. Retention harness should not be detachable"

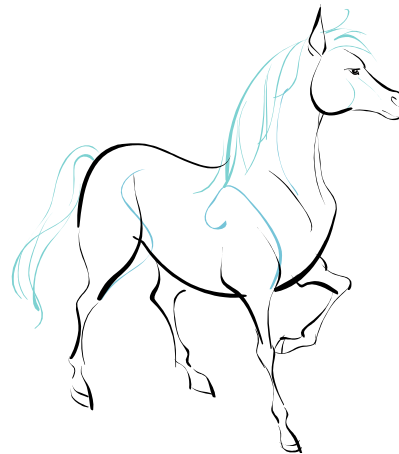
PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE MEANS ANY HELMET MADE TO EN 1384 STANDARD IN 2016 WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

What to bring to a rally day:

- Foods for your horse, bucket for water, secure headstall and lead rope, and a rug in winter.
- Tack should meet Pony Club criteria, be well fitting and in good condition. You may need to check the suitability of your equipment (especially bits) before coming to a rally day.

Use of stalls/yards

Stalls or yards are available for use on rally days. If you require one on the day please ask for either the Chief Instructor or Treasurer to unlock one for you. After use the stalls/yards **MUST** be cleaned out and the chains hung back in position. If MVPC does not comply the Club will be charged a cleaning fee, in which case this charge will be passed on to members.



Parking

Car parking is provided close to the Clubhouse. It is a requirement of Pony Club NSW that a horse free parking area be provided. **Riders must not ride their horse in the parking areas of the grounds.**

Rally Day Morning Tea & Lunch – please note volunteers are being sought to run the catering service otherwise riders are bring their own snacks and lunch. Details to be confirmed before 1st riding rally day of the year.

Meal times are fun on a rally day. We ask for volunteers to provide morning tea which our riders usually eat on the go. All food is provided by the Club; parents on morning tea or lunch duty are responsible for food preparation and clean-up, which may involve cutting up fruit, cakes, and taking food to the riders and instructors, as well as preparing lunch or setting up the BBQ, cooking and serving the food, and then cleaning up afterwards. The fee for morning tea & lunch will be advised at the start of the year.

Cancellations and Wet Weather Policy:

Cancellations, including cancellations due to wet weather, are at the discretion of the President and the Chief Instructor.

In the event of wet weather a rally day MAY proceed with theory work if mounted activities are not practical. If there are insufficient number of riders attending the rally day it will be cancelled, or the scheduled program may be modified to only a morning session.

Cancellations to the rally day will be posted on the MVPC website by 6pm the Saturday evening BEFORE the scheduled rally day, and updated again at 8am on the scheduled day. Members will also be notified via email of any cancellations. Members should check the website regularly for updates to schedules rally days, or email questions to mossvaleponyclub@gmail.com

Conduct of Riders

When Mounted:

- Please arrive on time. Late arrivals are disruptive and may result in being left out of a session.
- Be considerate of each other and especially of less experienced and younger riders when riding near them.
- Walk at all times unless specifically advised otherwise by an instructor.
- You may not leave a lesson without asking permission from the instructor.
- The instructor appreciates it if you thank them at the end of the lesson.

- You must only ride where and when advised by an instructor – definitely not around the clubhouse or the car parks.

When not mounted:

- Horses are easily spooked and everyone who comes to pony club needs to be sensible around horses. Small children should be supervised at all times and are not to sit/climb on any of the railings or jumping equipment. **No child should be left with a horse unsupervised.**
- **No dogs are allowed.**
- If a parent wishes to discuss an aspect of a lesson with an instructor, please wait until the end of the lesson.
- Children should be courteous and co-operative and be keen to learn and have fun. Parents should remember that Pony Club operates for the benefit of the children

Pony Club is a youth organisation therefore policies relating to the following apply to both adults and children while at the Club:

- No Alcohol
- No Smoking
- No Swearing

Please visit **www.pcansw.org.au** to view these policies.

Competitions

During the year there will be many competitions held which members can attend. The main type of pony club competition is the gymkhana.

The gymkhana is an opportunity for all riders to go out and compete against other riders, from other clubs. Gymkhanas usually have ring events (hacking), sporting and jumping. They are a great way for riders to get experience in competitions and build up confidence. While horses/ponies need to be plaited and presented for gymkhanas, do not let this deter you, as help is always available if you are unsure of what to do.

A couple of weeks before each competition details will be circulated via email and posted on our website. You will need to register the rider and horse, the process for this will be advised prior to each competition. If riders are not registered before the closing date, they are generally unable to be entered.

Moss Vale Pony Club will host two major events in 2016 - a Del Throsby Dressage and Showjumping Day and a Gymkhana. More information is circulated closer to the date.

Volunteers at Moss Vale Pony Club

PONY CLUB, by its nature, is voluntary, and cannot exist without the assistance of all members in its running. The pony club experience can only be great if parents and families of our riders are willing to assist with the activities of the Club.

Parent volunteers are the foundation of our club - without them, the club could and would not exist. For example, our rally day instructors are volunteers - riders are not charged for tuition at

rally days. Our volunteers and the giving of their time and effort to help with the running of the club reflects teamwork and sportsmanship, and helps demonstrate to our children the importance of these core values. Children see and learn that with teamwork, much is possible.

At each rally day we ask volunteers to :

- help get children and ponies ready to ride
- assist with setting up and putting away equipment
- help with canteen food preparation and clean up
- packing up the club house after lunch
- assisting instructors, especially with activities like sporting (putting flags out, timekeeping) and jumping (picking up pole when they are knocked).

Throughout the year our volunteers also help organise:

- sponsorship
- working bees
- Del Throsby Day
- Other events and clinics hosted by the club

We are sure all parents will understand that teamwork and helping out is part of the spirit of the club, and will join in assisting in a range of activities throughout the year.

Communication

WEBSITE - The Club's Website (mossvaleponyclub.org.au) is updated regularly. It contains important information about upcoming events, changes to this year's calendar, any additional new dates and names and contact details for the committee, The Website is also used to advise members of up and coming working bees and changes to any rules or requirements members may need to know about.

In the locked area (requires member login) there are photos of recent events, and newsletter items, such as the results of our riders who have been out competing.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS - are held either on the pony club grounds or at an off-site venue. All associate and adult members are welcome to attend meetings as observers. Dates of meetings and venues will be advised via email.

FACEBOOK- The club has a private facebook group that will provide updates and other important information as well as being a place to share news and photos with others in the club.

PHONE- The club secretary may be contacted via phone or text on the number above.

Awards/Point Score System

Most improved: Awarded by the instructors. Riders are selected on the basis of overall effort & improvement. This trophy is usually awarded to a member of any age who has persevered throughout the year and tried their hand at everything Pony Club has to offer.

Chief instructors Award: The criteria for this award is that riders have participated enthusiastically in their lesson, listened to and followed instructions, and showed care and consideration for their horse and fellow riders.

Most successful Junior & Senior Riders: For the highest points from overall placings at pony club gymkhanas accumulated throughout the year. After a gymkhana just bring your ribbons in to earn points.

President's award: A prestigious award presented to the member whom the President feels is a good example of what a Moss Vale member should be, friendly, helpful, mindful of others, particularly the younger members. They are usually the first to volunteer if a job needs to be done, someone who is proud to have a go, is proud of their Club and a member of whom the President is proud.

Junior and Senior Clubsmanship Awards: Another prestigious accolade awarded by our club. The recipient of this award is selected based on points awarded for contribution and behaviours they have displayed during the year which lead the Executive Committee to believe that they are an outstanding ambassador for the values of Moss Vale Pony Club. The Clubsmanship Award is not related in any way to competition results achieved, but rather is based on upholding the values of the Club such as:

- **Notice of attendance**
- **Presentation:** Full club uniform (neat and tidy)
Clean horse & tack
- **Clubmanship:** Rally participation - Listen & learn
Manners & Respect (to members, instructors and guests)
Helping others - Encouraging and supporting others, sharing knowledge and experience where possible.
Helping out – stables & clubhouse clean, equipment set up/pack up
BONUS 3 points - Fundraising & working bee participation

Points (max 10) will be awarded each week and tallied on the club notice board.

PC Ambassador Award: Excellent sportsmanship - displaying a graceful and humble attitude both in victory and defeat. Shows consideration to other riders, praises others in their achievements, always pleasant and cheerful, and with a sunny personality. Displaying a kind and responsible attitude towards both humans and horses. Always adhering to the rules and regulations of MVPC and PCNSW

All Rounder Perpetual Trophy: Awarded to the rider who has achieved the most outstanding competition results throughout the year across more than one riding discipline across all events (PC and Non-PC).

Brian Spence Horsemanship Trophy: Awarded to the rider who demonstrates long term commitment to developing a partnership with their horse and who demonstrates ongoing care for their horses welfare, grooming, education. They encourage their horse and are aware and considerate of it's limitations.