

PONY CLUB ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

**AIMS & OBJECTIVES OF MEMBERSHIP**

- A. To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all approved kinds of sport connected with horses and riding.
- B. To provide instruction in riding and horsemastership and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.
- C. To promote the highest ideals of fellowship, citizenship and loyalty, and to cultivate strength of character and self-discipline.

In our dealings with the riders, in order of importance place:

FIRST	The SAFETY of the riders
SECOND	The COMFORT of the pony
THIRD	The ENJOYMENT of the rider and The TRAINING of their character
FOURTH	The PROGRESS of the rider

***PONY CLUBBING***

**JOY THROUGH PARTICIPATION**

**TEAM SPIRIT**

**FINDING KNOWLEDGE  
AND MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP**

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## **ALL ABOUT PONY CLUB**

### **WHAT IT IS**

The Pony Club, through its activities, is a worldwide youth organisation for those interested in horses, ponies and riding.

It is the largest association of riders in the world.

It is a voluntary youth organisation which exists to promote the physical, mental and spiritual development of young people, encouraging in them an awareness of responsibility, sportsmanship and citizenship.

The Pony Club differs from other youth movements because the horse is used as the main centre of interest around which to cultivate strength of character and self-discipline.

The OBJECT of the Pony Club is to encourage young people to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding and to provide instruction in riding and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

1. is open to young people 25 years of age and under.
2. Membership terminates at the end of the year in which a Member reaches the age of 25 years.
3. Ordinary Members consist of young people who have not attained the age of 17 years.
4. Associate Members are those young people who are 17 years and over and 25 years and under.

### **THE PONY CLUB AND OUTSIDE CONTACTS**

The Pony Club, through its activities and the manner in which they are run, sets an example of sportsmanship and citizenship to its members. It can provide the means and encouragement for young people during the last few years of their membership, and after, to put something back into their Club in a voluntary capacity.

Contact with other youth organisations and clubs is valuable to all concerned and can usefully be fostered by Clubs on a local basis.

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## **THE PONY CLUB GROWTH & DEVELOPMENT**

The Pony Club is an Internationally Recognised voluntary youth organisation for those interested in horses, ponies and riding, represented in more than 20 countries, with an overall membership exceeding 100,000.

Originating in Britain in 1929 as a scheme to encourage young people to learn to ride, it is focused on riding instruction and fun. It has now become the largest association of riders in the world.

In Western Australia the first Pony Club was formed in 1959. All Clubs are affiliated with the Pony Club Association of Western Australia and through that with the Australian Pony Club Council and of the British Horse Society Pony Club.

The Western Australian Pony Clubs are divided into 12 Zones: Avon, Central, Eastern, Great Southern, Hills, Metropolitan, Midland, Northern, North West, South Eastern, South West and West Coastal. In Western Australia there are approximately 70 Pony Clubs with membership in excess of 3000 members up to the age of 25 years.

In 1960, the founders of the Pony Club Association of Western Australia documented some excellent hints and guidelines, based on their experiences in other States and overseas, in an effort to help the young State Association understand about Pony Club, and encourage their Club members to progress without some of the 'pitfalls' and problems experienced elsewhere. These guidelines are as relevant today as they were in the 1960's.

Every Club is a branch of 'THE PONY CLUB' and members are encouraged to realise this, THE PONY CLUB has its headquarters at Stoneleigh in the United Kingdom and we, through our State Association and Federal Council, are a branch of that.

Sometimes a Club or Zone feels it would like to do this or that, forgetting that it is really only a part of a great organisation that spans the world, and this Club or Zone, in gaining affiliation has agreed to observe the rules and regulations of THE PONY CLUB.

It can be very hard for Pony Club Committees, which change often, to keep the ideals of Pony Club before them.

Club Administrators must always remember that Pony Club is for the 'average' child aged about 13 on an ordinary pony that it loves to care for, and gains tremendous pleasure from. In return, the pony performs fairly well at everything, and perhaps excels at one thing. Perhaps this child rides to rallies, and gets its gear through birthday presents, 'hand-me-downs' or bargains.

This child will be lost unless the ideals of Pony Club are uppermost in the mind of Administrators. The rider will not be good enough to get into the winning team; they will not be good enough to be there after the third jump off against the clock, and they will not be able to spend a lot of dollars travelling to some distant place for competition for a large trophy; but all these things are materialistic and this child is a member of THE PONY CLUB.

Their gain should be its place in the Club, and the inspiration that you give them, and the feeling that they get from participating which will remain with them always.

Committees and coaches can so easily be ambitious and want to develop the more able child at the expense of the average member - this must NEVER be, as our job in PONY CLUB is to cater for ALL the members and to make each have a pleasant and productive day, no matter the standard of the rider or the mount.

Possibly the biggest problem is the loss of Associate Members. The Associates that remain in Pony Club are an example of our work and if they fall short it is our failure, not theirs.

They have a wonderful role to play in Pony Club and it is suggested that, to keep their interest, they be given a responsibility in the Club. If they have any ideas let them try them - some may work, others may not - but they will have the encouragement of trying them.

It is in these latter years of Pony Club that the ideals we have been endeavouring to instil in them become realism. It is only then that the complete Pony Clubber exists. They have reached an age and stage where they can give something back to their Club, and most do. The Associates, by their ability and example, inspire the younger members and without them, a Club could be a dull affair.

Of those who have moved on, perhaps one day they will return as coaches, as parents, or as committee members.

Pony Club is a wonderful movement. It centres us all - Administrators, Coaches, Parents and Members - around a wonderful animal - THE HORSE.

If Pony Club involvement is a rewarding experience, you must believe in the total concept of THE PONY CLUB, you must make it your business to understand it, so that you will be an upholder of its ideals, and a worthy member of it. It is hard work, but the satisfaction is great when you really believe in it.

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## **THE PONY CLUB - WHAT IT DOES**

It provides an environment in which a young rider can find knowledge and mutual friendship with other riders.

It encourages participation by providing all members with the opportunity to be involved in riding activities, regardless of their riding ability or the quality of their mounts.

The safety, happiness and enjoyment of its members is of prime concern.

The need for young people to use their leisure time constructively is fulfilled as a great deal of time is involved in owning and caring for a horse and pony.

It is also a social club - bringing together boys and girls of all ages with a common interest.

A Working Rally is the backbone of the Pony Club Movement.

Other activities may include camps, hunting, trail rides, lectures and films, visits to places of interest, demonstrations, polo, polocrosse, tent pegging, harness driving, vaulting, etc.

After completion and examination of the required standards taken from the PCA Syllabus of Instruction, efficiency certificates are awarded by the PCAWA to encourage interest and improvement in the knowledge of its members.

Competitions are held at Club, Inter-Club, Zone, Inter-Zone, State, National and International level. These are arranged as team events; therefore team spirit and sportsmanship are encouraged, rather than individual competition.

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## "PONY TALES"

"Pony Tales" is the official Newsletter of the Pony Club Association of Western Australia.

The Executive Officer of the PCAWA is the editor of "Pony Tales" and Clubs are encouraged to submit reports of special events and competitions, or other items of interest to Pony Club members.

It is vital that members read this newsletter, as it includes important information, and highlights changes to rules which may occur from time to time.

"Pony Tales" includes full results of all PCAWA Championship events (eg the State Tetrathlon, State Dressage Championships, Novelties & Prince Phillip Games Championships, State Eventing Championships, State Showjumping Championships and State Polocrosse). Where possible, details of special schools are also included.

"For Sale" and "Wanted" advertisements can be included (at no cost to Pony Club members) and commercial advertising is also available (details of costs, deadlines, etc, are available from the PCAWA headquarters or the Website [www.pcawa.com](http://www.pcawa.com))

Also included is a "Dates for Your Diary" section. PCAWA Headquarters collates information about all Pony Club, EFA and other events, together with details of a contact person and telephone number and these are published monthly. Clubs are requested to advise the PCAWA of dates on their annual calendar, so that this information can be included in this column.

"Pony Tales" is published bi-monthly all year round and is mailed direct to every household where there is a financial member of a Pony Club affiliated with the PCAWA. One copy is also mailed to each Pony Club Secretary.

The mailing list is maintained by PCAWA Headquarters from the membership and supplementary membership lists provided by Clubs. It is therefore important that all Clubs advise PCAWA Headquarters of all new members as soon as possible. Clubs and individual members are reminded to advise PCAWA Headquarters of any changes of address during the year, so that we can ensure our mailing list is kept up to date.

Due to the costs of printing and postage, only one copy of Pony Tales is mailed to each Pony Club family, and if there are two or more members of a Pony Club in one family, only one copy will be mailed to that address.