



PONY CLUB
AUSTRALIA

AWARDS 2019

Finalists

- Riders of the Year
- Coach of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Club of the Year

Presented during the 2019
Thoroughbred Industry Careers
PCA National Championships in
Sydney October 10th 2019

WELCOME

The Pony Club Australia annual awards are a way we can acknowledge those who have stood out and made a difference – riders, coaches, officials and volunteer supporters. This year there were over 150 nominations, showing the calibre of those involved with Pony Club in this country.

The criteria for each award are:

Best achievement by a rider aged 12 years and under

This award is based on a rider's participation in Pony Club rallies and activities, achievements in riding, completion of Pony Club certificates and a demonstrated partnership with and care for their pony

Best achievement by a rider 13-17 years

This award is based on a rider's participation in Pony Club rallies and activities, improvement in riding and leadership skills through diligence and effort, and Club citizenship.

Best achievement by a rider aged 18 – 25 years

This award is based on a rider's participation in Pony Club rallies and activities, improvement in riding and leadership skills and contribution to their club or zone.

The Miss Kay Irving Award (Coach of the Year)

This award is based on a coach's contribution to the coaching program at Pony Club, commitment to coaching excellence, and personal passion and resilience.

Volunteer of the year

Open to a helper, administrator, Club office holder or official.

This award is based on a volunteer displaying Pony Club values, contributing to the development of their Pony Club for the benefit of members, and a commitment to good governance and professionalism.

Club of the year

This award is based on a Club implementing initiatives and showing inclusivity and innovation. They must have also shown delivery of coaching syllabus, and demonstrated achievements by members and coaches.



*Australia – International Mounted Games Champions
August 2019 Colorado, USA*

FINALISTS

RIDER OF THE YEAR 12 YEARS AND UNDER

Brooke IteI

Kurrajong Pony Club, Queensland

Brooke has overcome personal hardships and long distances to attend rallies and competitions. She has had plenty of success from limited opportunities. She is dedicated to preparing her pony for events and helps others do the same with plaits and checkers. She travels long periods just to get to her horse, ride it and care for it, and willingly works after dark to prepare and care for her own, and other horses, on the property. She has made baked goods herself for the Pony Club canteen. She is keen to help others and one day caught a horse while on horseback that was out of control with the young rider. She will ride to the white line with another opposition rider her age to get their horse to walk over the line.

Jorja McCloskey

Burpengary Pony Club, Queensland

Jorja has participated consistently in her local Pony Club musters and rallies, fun days, camps, local competitions and state competitions. She was selected to represent Queensland at Nationals this year.

Jorja has competed in three Queensland State Championships over the past year - Formal Gymkhana, Junior Mounted Games and State Dressage and Combined Training – plus the Pony Club NSW State Dressage and Showriding for many placings. She won the two Dressage State Champion titles for her age group.

Jorja is a confident young rider who has a lot of feel for her animal. She currently has two ponies, however her absolute love is her almost 24 year old Riding Pony which she has owned and learnt to ride over the past three years. Jorja is considerate of his age, and has withdrawn when she feels he's had enough or is not right.

Tom Sturgeon

Gumdale Horse and Pony Club, Queensland

In 18 months Tom, with his horse Chex, has gone from a beginner rider to competing and placing 3rd overall in both the state Combined Training and Horse Trials Championships. Aged only 10, he also won a rug for the highest individual campdraft score in the 14&U class, at the Zone 1 gymkhana and campdraft championships at Boonah.

He gives anything a go, including the club's musters and activities, plus showjumping, eventing, combined training, dressage, sporting and campdrafting events.

He embodies the Pony Club spirit of sportsmanship and friendship, wishing other riders good luck before their rounds and tells them well done. At a recent competition, where he won a feature event held to raise money for a fellow competitor seriously injured in a riding accident, Tom generously donated his prize back to the little girl.

Zali Duncan

Cobargo Pony Club, NSW

Zali helps set up and pack up lesson equipment, assists and encourages younger and newer members and makes herself available for instructors' clinics as a demo rider.

She won Age Champion at PCANSW state championships in 2017, and Reserve Champion in 2018 and 2019. She attended and placed at three state level teams events this year. She was also one of the top four point scorers in the state at the Sporting Championships and helped NSW win the champion State award. Zali was selected for the 2019 Nationals for Formal Gymkhana and Quiz.

Zali's horse for the past six years, Splash, is an Australian Stock Horse and the pair also currently hold two national U13 titles (Sporting and Showjumping). In her Zone, she has won Champion Sporting Rider for the last four years in a row, against riders up to 26 years.

This has never been won four times by any rider in the 50 year history of this award.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

Australia's
HorseWyse
MAGAZINE



FINALISTS

RIDER OF THE YEAR 13-17 YEARS

Emily Ninness

Merriwa Pony Club, NSW

Emily has been a member of Merriwa Pony Club for 12 years and participates in rally days, working bees, zone competitions, regional clinics and state events as a rider, volunteer, mentor and positive role model. Emily also competes in campdrafting, tentpegging and Stock Horse competitions. She qualified for the national campdrafting finals several times and won highest junior point score for Hunter Zone, and is the Australian Junior Individual Tentpegging title holder for 2018 and 2019. She aims to become a Pony Club instructor and rally day organiser and already mentors junior members. Emily recently helped run a rally day when others couldn't be there. She has at least four horses in work all the time, exercises her older brother's horses while he is working away from home and is educating two three-year old fillies. She does all the work herself before and after school and prepares her horses and their gear for competition herself.

Grace McGlinchey

Kiama Pony Club, NSW

Grace McGlinchey has only missed one Kiama Pony Club rally in five years. In the past 18 months she competed and placed in the 2017 PC State Mounted Games / Team Sporting Championships and the 2017 PC Equitation Championships. In mounted games, Grace rode in a team at the 2018 Zone 28 Mounted Games and the 2018 PC State Mounted Games / Team Sporting for Associate Champions of both events. She placed 9th at the 2018 PC State Equitation and Showjumping in both sections. As an Associate member she has completed an instructor's course and is now showing great promise of soon becoming an amazing instructor and mentor for the many young riders in Pony Club. Grace helps the young club members with walking courses and encourages her peers. Outside of Kiama Pony Club, Grace has assisted the Zone and other clubs by instructing, judging, stewarding at gymkhanas and a jamboree, and setting up equipment at Kiama Show where she is on the junior management committee.

James Smith

Queanbeyan Pony Club, NSW

James is a fine ambassador for Pony Club, supporting new riders and encouraging other boys to participate in the camps and rallies. He has begun taking on some instructional and leadership roles. James was selected for the 2019 Nationals Formal Gymkhana team, and is in the NSW state musical ride team for the opening ceremony. He was first reserve for the Tetrathlon after asking for his team place to be given to the second reserve rider who was not competing in any other sport at the Nationals.

He has taken his OTT horse to B Grade showjumping. The pair also competes and does well in dressage (previous national team members), and they are Showjumping and Sporting Zone Champions and Reserve Champions in Dressage. James also seeks to attend all Pony Club exec meetings as a rider representative, is taking on instructional activities and always volunteers at events. James is a key leader at the annual Zone 16 camp both as a rider and volunteer in non-riding time.

Katie and Siobhy Nicholls

Swan Valley Horse and Pony Club, WA

Katie and Siobhy coach the lower groups at rallies when needed, and help riders warm up at competitions. They have readily taken on the shared role of President of the Junior Committee which provides a perfect opportunity to use and improve upon their already outstanding leadership skills. The junior committee are working hard to organise and deliver a fabulous end of year Ribbon Day event, and provide innovative fundraising initiatives. The sisters have had to educate their own horses (including off the track) and take them through the heights in jumping and eventing. If the girls are not competing they are on the side lines encouraging junior members. At the state show jumping competition this year they walked multiple courses with the younger riders.

In order to improve their performance in Tetrathlon and encourage others, the sisters joined the Rhein Donau Pistol Club and the Modern Pentathlon Association. They also completed a 'Train the Trainer' session this year, to teach others how to use laser pistols. They have since coached numerous other Pony Club members, including members from other clubs.

Nicola Hutchinson

Derwent Pony Club, Tas

Nicola has a very positive influence on the other riders in the Club and the Zone, and is a great role model for her sportsmanship, respect and willingness to share her experience. For the past four years Nicola has competed at the state horse trials. She has completed her K certificate, NCAS Preliminary accreditation and a horse massage workshop. At one day events she actively supports junior riders from all southern clubs. At rallies she pitches in to help with setup, pack up, leading young riders, assisting others with gear, and cleaning the clubrooms. Nicola attends Derwent club committee meetings to put forward ideas for activities that she has canvassed from younger members. Nicola is assistant coach of the club's musical ride team for the Dressage Championships, and has helped at Southern Zone competitions by being a lane steward at state games, and has worked as marshal and judge's assistant on Pony Club day at the Royal Hobart Show. All the younger riders want to be like her one day.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



ProGroom[™]
"used by Pet Professionals"

Equine Grooming Products

FINALISTS

RIDER OF THE YEAR RIDER 18-25

Adeline Collins

Corner Inlet Pony Club, Vic

Adeline Collins has been an active contributor to her club for many years, instructing, on the committee, volunteering and running many events and rallies. She has assisted with building cross country fences and designing and building showjumping courses for rallies and events.

Adeline has been club chief instructor for the last two years, and on the senior committee as well as zone delegate and a Zone C Certificate assessor. She obtained her preliminary and level one NCAS coach's qualifications at 18 and also now coaches at various clubs in the South Metro Zone and West Gippsland Zone.

Adeline has represented her Zone in state games, horse trials, flat teams and musical rides, and in the Victorian horse trials team at the PCA Nationals. She represented Australia at the Inter-Pacific championships and was selected for the 2019 PCA/Sport Australia Women Leaders in Sport program.

Georgia Pearce

Leven Pony Club, Tas

Georgia juggles work and riding commitments to get the most from, and help at, Pony Club. She is a NCAS Preliminary Pony Club coach and coaches at several clubs.

A strong advocate for OTT horses, she has trained three horses to Grade 1 level. She has been competing at Grade 1 level in all disciplines since she was 15 and has enjoyed many successes. She has won the Leven Pony Club Outstanding Achievement Award many times and has won the Tasmanian Bon View Rodger Trophy (most successful horse and rider combination at all three state championships) on three occasions on two different horses.

Georgia represented Australia in the PCA showjumping team to France in 2018. As a Leven PC committee member, she has helped organise the State Dressage and Showjumping Championships. She is the club social media person, and her management of the social media in the leadup and during the State Championships was a huge assistance to both the organising committee and the competitors alike.

Katelin Fantuz

Walliston Riding and Pony Club, WA

Katelin not only sits on her club committee as treasurer, but is also on her zone and state committee. Described as a 'one woman power house', she was one of the last committee members left standing to run - successfully - the entire Pony Club WA Festival one year.

She has also worked closely in partnership with a senior Pony Club volunteer Don Hawkins to start up and promote the sport of tentpegging which will now be listed as a state championship event in future years. Katelin has also completed the Pony Club WA Leadership Program and is a great role model to all Pony Club members young and old.

Her many hours volunteering at various levels set her up to take the state level activities by storm and show you can achieve so much while still being an associate riding member.

Summer Cutmore

Northern Suburbs Pony Club, Qld

Summer has had many challenges during her riding career, including coming from a family that has never been around or owned horses before. At 14 Summer got a job to pay for her passion and has done ever since. Summer coaches and volunteers her time teaching the younger riders in every discipline as well as judging events for not only her own club but others.

Summer was the club's nominations secretary and vice president last year. In the last 12 months, Summer lost her horse and had to start afresh with a new mount. Two major falls and their repercussions led to her being hospitalised several times and not able to walk for months. Despite this and more setbacks, she continued to persevere and managed to qualify and compete in the PCAQ Dressage, Combined Training and ODE state championships, placing in each. She is now coaching again as well as competing and breaking in her three year old horse by herself.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



Equine Grooming Products

FINALISTS

COACH OF THE YEAR

Lucinda Alexander

Mersey Valley Pony Club, Tas

Lucinda is chief coach for her club and a committed member of the PCT Chief Coaches Panel, so has been heavily involved in disseminating issues applicable to riders, families, volunteers and coaches in PCT and PCA and sharing them in a clear, positive, meaningful manner.

She has been instrumental in collaborating on a 'Draft Coach Checklist' for Club Coaches to include on the Rally Program to ensure clubs pass on applicable, relevant, important information to visiting coaches about their club requirements and current PCT/PCA policies.

Lucinda attended and was actively involved in the PCA 2018 National Biennial Coaches' Conference in Southport, Queensland and carefully introduced and implemented ideas presented at the conference, without overwhelming members. Her approachability, professionalism, work ethic and reassurance allows her to relate to riders, club members and the general community.

Rosemary Inglis

Swan Valley Horse and Pony Club, WA

Rosemary is a NCAS Level 1 coach and a Level 1 Showjumping judge – and a versatile and reliable coach who can instruct in any discipline. Rosemary has very strong morals for fairness, right and wrong. Her attention to detail is second to none, from gear checking to horse welfare to child safety.

She volunteers her time to drive an hour to help prep the children and examine them for their certificates, and discretely volunteers her time and knowledge to coach less fortunate families.

She is currently the President of WASJA, assists with the set up and running of Wooraloo Three Day Event. Rosemary manages and maintains the equipment for Showjumping WA and is on the Showjumping WA 2019 Committee.

A PCAWA certificate examiner, Rosemary attends the PCAWA coaching clinics annually and is happy to travel throughout WA to coach and judge. Rosemary won Equestrian WA Volunteer of the Year in 2016 and 2017.

Sarah Eyb

Cudal Pony Club, NSW

Sarah has been instrumental in developing an incredible coaching program at Cudal pony club. From rally days to pony camps she is organised, extremely knowledgeable and very easy to learn from. She takes the time to understand and know the level of every rider and their mount at Pony Club, and organises external coaches to come in for camps and to coach the older riders, which has been a major factor in Cudal becoming one of the biggest clubs in the area.

Cudal has now even added Tetrathlon to its list of disciplines thanks mainly to Sarah's influence. Sarah is a Level one NCAS coach whose goal is to ensure that all students enjoy every moment in the saddle and continue to progress into stronger, more confident riders.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY



- **CLOTHING**
- **JEWELLERY**
- **MERCHANDISE**
- **SHOW RIBBONS**

FINALISTS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Ann Olsen

LeHunte Pony Club, SA

Ann is both Club President and President of Pony Club SA.

Thanks mainly to her efforts, some members travel over 200kms to be valued members of this club.

She encourages people of all ages to be connected to horses and riding. She provides quality horse handling and riding instruction, encourages input from members and ensures everyone has a sense of belonging and acceptance. She does a huge amount of behind the scenes work for the club and also travels to many other Pony Clubs across the state for rallies, training days and other support.

She has recently upgraded the club's equipment, cross country course, young riders' arena equipment and added some riding equitation obstacles to the grounds. A big favourite of the kids are the amazing mazes she has made; the younger riders also enjoy her sticker charts.

The club has members with different degrees of health needs and Ann is always looking for ways to improve the grounds and resources to make them more inclusive and accessible.

Brian Voight

Doongala Pony Club, Vic

From the day he turned up nine years ago, Brian has been involved in the club's grounds and maintenance crew. Brian's kindness towards and understanding of other people's situations has been one of his outstanding personal attributes. He can quietly rally parents to help out, never talks badly about anyone, nor does he expect anyone to do anything.

Often his work flies under the radar; he can still be at the grounds after dark following a rally, finishing off a project. Recent projects include working on the dilapidated cross country course in preparation for some big events.

Brian also put his hand up for zone rep for the last few years, and volunteers for many other jobs at PAV or zone level. He has been helping build jumps at the PCV grounds at Gladysdale, and helped at working bees at Tooradin for a zone event.

Jo Cepak

Arcadia Pony Club, NSW

In addition to Jo's positive, professional and infectious attitude, she demonstrates the values of sportsmanship, learning, horsemanship, fun and friendship. She is club president and zone delegate. Jo manages the certificate program, is developing the club's diversity program and is attracting riders with a disability to the club. She promotes initiatives to improve gender diversity and attract members who do not have their own horses.

Jo is able to obtain quality speakers and demonstrators to rallies and open days, such as Olympian Stuart Tinney, and vets, farriers and nutritionists. She has secured sponsorship and grants from

various sources, including \$50K from Sport and Recreation for a grounds upgrade. At the club's 2019 Registration Day, Jo organized saddle fitting services for free to club members. She writes two articles per month for local magazines showcasing club members and activities, and has developed Arcadia's new website and social media program to promote both digital engagement and personal engagement between the members and club.

Rod Dowding

Horsemen's Pony Club, WA

As club President for the past two years, Rod shows strong, visionary leadership. He works tirelessly and with integrity to ensure the Club is well resourced and fulfils its purpose to educate members.

He drives unity both within the Club and with nearby sister clubs, sharing information and resources to benefit riders and to strengthen the district's collective voice.

Rod oversees the management of all rallies, drives the upkeep of the clubhouse, grounds and facilities and has negotiated another 10 year lease of the club grounds. He is the hardest working member of the Club, and not just at working bees. He is always the first to arrive and the last to leave. He does all this while running a business and maintaining the family property.

Rod was instrumental in establishing and enforcing appropriate social media behaviours for Club Members. He has updated the Club's website; implemented the use of shared drives to maintain club records for transparency and continuity of information; and now employs Mailchimp to distribute the club e-newsletter.

Stacey Murrhiy

Noonamah Horse and Pony Club, NT

Within a year of joining Noonamah, Stacey had joined the club committee as the Assistant Chief Instructor (while pregnant with her fourth child) before becoming the Chief Instructor in 2019. Stacey has hosted study sessions at her house to help develop more qualified coaches, and plans all the rally days. The quality and variety of the rallies, and special clinics such as a trick riding clinic, have led to increased membership.

Stacey is also a key organising stakeholder at other events throughout the year including PCANT planning meetings, the Darwin Horse and Pony Club Northern Shields, NHPC Trick Riding clinic, the NHPC Fred's Pass Show Gymkhana, the annual club camp and the innovative NHPC Trifecta Challenge (a show work out, a show jumping course and obstacle course - a big hit). The annual NHPC Camp is the biggest Pony Club event in the Northern Territory. Stacey brought in specialised interstate coaches and the camp made a profit for the first time.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

MyPonyClub

SMA **sportsmarketing**
AUSTRALIA PTY LTD
Champions in Sport and Events Solutions

CLUB OF THE YEAR

Cudal Pony Club, NSW

Cudal Pony Club (CPC) uses instructors from a diverse range of equestrian disciplines to enable all members to find an area of interest. In the last year, specialist instructors included western reining, campdrafting, mounted games, tentpegging, carriage driving and natural horsemanship.

Key events that have increased membership numbers include the first Tetrathlon, the popular three day camp and the annual horse trials and gymkhana.

Over 90 percent of members completed the online tool to sign up using the NSW Government Active Kids voucher. Cudal uses a number of other online initiatives including Team App, Facebook and Nominate to communicate with members and the wider community. A show ring preparation demonstration at a "Ladies who Lunch Brunch" raised valuable funds.

CPC has mentored other clubs in developing coaching programs. It also annually hosts both the Regional Instructor's School and Instructors' Assessment Clinic. Associate riders are also paired with a qualified instructor to develop and plan lessons for a 12 month period to bring on younger instructors.

Gidgegannup Horse and Pony Club, WA

Gidgegannup boasts a national level cross country course and runs well organised rallies, camps and clinics every year. Fun activities and team building activities are held at the beginning and end of year rallies, and outside professionals come along regularly to talk and demonstrate eg. farriers, horse dentists and vets, tent peggers and knot experts.

The club has completed the Club Health Check, advocates 'Play by the Rules' and a safety program, the constitution is up to date and it carries out succession planning. It tries to keep fees low and has discounts for siblings. Members are kept fully informed via a monthly newsletter, Facebook pages and the club website. MyPonyClub database is used for management of memberships and events. The club sponsors riders attending big events such as the PCWA Championships and members who are selected to compete nationally or internationally.

Huon District Pony and Riding Club, Tas

To retain older members, Huon fundraised and applied for grants to build a cross country course described by Olympic rider and coach, Sonja Johnson, as the best she has taught on. By promoting leading rein groups the club attracted six new young members and their elder siblings.

The club holds a weekly twilight jump club in the summer months, and arranges clinics with coaches of the calibre of Olympians Blyth Tait and Sonja Johnson, which benefits its own members and outside riders.

Providing pony rides at the Annual Huon Small Farms Expo is a chance to interact with the local community. The club assists at the Huon Show and recently coordinated the volunteers at the Ranelagh Livestock Evacuation Centre for a two week period during the Tasmanian Bush Fire Disaster.

Huon Pony Club runs certificate camps twice yearly, and develops a yearly rally plan based on the PCT coaching syllabus which covers the ridden and horsemanship components at each certificate level and each rally.

Lilydale District Pony Club, Tasmania

Lilydale offers its members quality, varied monthly instruction including topics like natural horsemanship and obstacles. The club runs weekly lessons during daylight savings on dressage/jumping, holds monthly adult riding rallies, and co-ordinates equine services for club members such as dentists from interstate. It financially supports members to seize opportunities such as international travel and national competition attendance. PCA certificates are highly encouraged, with 99% of riders actively working towards a Test. It has a complaints process and a junior subcommittee which participates in decision making. To attract more members, the club has "bring a friend" day, promotes through local school and businesses, and focusses on horse sports that appeal to males. It has scholarships for disadvantaged community members and ambulant club facilities to encourage diversity and inclusion.

Lilydale is one of, if not the first, Club in Tasmania to adopt the new Pony Club Tas constitution at Club level and the first club in Australia to use live score Nominate at an event, in March 2018 at a dressage qualifier.

PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY

**INSURANCE
BROKERS**

