



New Group Adds Wealth of Talent to Pony Club

Earlier this year, Pony Club Australia sought to draw on talent from the broader community to help it improve education methods for coaches, officials, riders and potential leaders, by setting up a strategic Education and Development Committee.

“Pony Club in Australia has taught hundreds of thousands of riders how to ride and care for their horses over the past 80 years,” CEO Dr Catherine Ainsworth said.

“This is the next step, as we recently introduced a new syllabus of instruction which leads the world incorporating evidence-based principles to benefit rider safety and horse welfare. We have been delighted with the response for the Education and Development Committee - the calibre of this committee is outstanding.”

PCA is grateful to the Sport Australia Impact grant program which has enabled the launch of this initiative.

The committee will help develop strategies and policies as well as programs, and advise the independent, skills-based board of PCA. The members are:

Alison Cairns

Alison is a partner at EY and experienced in Learning Analytics, Digital Learning, Work Integrated Learning and Student Experience. She is also a PCANCAS Level 1 coach, certificate examiner, and Pony Club parent.

Meredith Chapman

Meredith assists businesses to develop Workplace Health and Safety Management Systems and is also a long-term horse breeder of sporting horses. Her PhD is on reducing horse-related human injuries and deaths.

Lisa Coffey

Lisa has qualifications in Equine Science and Psychology and has developed programs for the racing industry. She has delivered Equine Assisted Psychological and Emotional Coaching Programs and coordinates the Pony Club Ride-to-Time program in Victoria.

Rebecca Ham

Bec has worked in Training and Assessment and taught animal and equine science. She coaches at three Pony Clubs and works as an Equine Nutrition Advisor with Kentucky Equine Research. She is completing her Masters in Animal Science.

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The Australian Government through Sport Australia recognises Pony Club Australia to develop Pony Club in Australia. The financial support of Sport Australia is gratefully acknowledged.

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Jen Mainland

Jen has a degree in Psychology and left a corporate career in the university sector to establish a full time business as equestrian coach, trainer and assessor. Jen is an active competitor in dressage and has travelled to China twice with Pony Club Australia.

Elizabeth Stanfield

Elizabeth has taught in schools and to adults, in general and agricultural education. She rides and coaches and is a current member of Tasmanian Mounted Search and Rescue Inc, regularly working with SES and Tasmania Police.

Tracy Talbot

Tracy's background is in Human Resources. She is on the Pony Club WA state coaching panel and has been a coach examiner and assessor. She has developed and delivered webinars to assist coaches working through their NCAS Prelim and Level 1 workbooks across WA.

Julia Walker

With tertiary qualifications in Psychology and Education, Julia has worked in delivery of therapy options for children with additional needs. She is a past National Executive Director of RDA Australia. Julia has been a Pony Club President, Zone Representative and is a Pony Club parent.

More information:

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