



2019-2020

Welcome to Mildura Alcheringa Pony Club

We hope that your time with us is enjoyable. We aim to offer you opportunities to enjoy and improve your riding in an environment that is safe for you and your pony/ horse.



What is Pony Club?

Pony clubs operate as a non-profit organisation dedicated to the development of the young rider, and is concerned equally with the practical skills and social development of riding members. The operation of the clubs is governed by the Pony Club of Victoria (PCV) which sets the standards and rules by which our club is governed. <http://www.ponyclubvic.org/>

Mildura Alcheringa Pony Club

Mildura Alcheringa Pony Club (MAPC) is part of the Northern Zone. Victoria is divided into 10 zones. Our grounds are located at 66 Racecourse Road, Nichols Point, at the Sunraysia Equestrian Centre (SEC). We are one of 3 member clubs of SEC.

Structure of the MAPC

MAPC is operated through an entirely volunteer committee. The Committee of Management of MAPC consists of:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Up to 5 ordinary members
- District Commissioner (DC)

The committee, except the District Commissioner, is elected at the AGM held in September. All members and parents are encouraged to attend and to make themselves available for positions which become vacant. Nomination forms are available on the website 2 months prior to the AGM. The committee appoints the District Commissioner along with other appointed positions, at the next ordinary meeting following the AGM.

Appointed positions include important roles such as Chief Instructor (CI), catering coordinator, uniform manager, events coordinator, grounds maintenance manager. See website for committee contacts and further information. <http://milduraponyclub.weebly.com/>

Our committee meets on the second Wednesday of the month.

Membership Information

Membership in pony club is open to children of any age. Beginner riders should be able to guide their pony unassisted at walk and trot in an enclosed area. Horses/ ponies must be suitable for pony club activities- responsive to their rider's aids and well behaved among other horses.

When a member reaches the age of 17 he/she becomes an Associate Member. Associate members continue riding membership within the pony club up to the age of 26. Many of our senior riders have gone on to become instructors in our club – something which we strongly encourage and support.

To apply for membership to the Mildura Alcheringa Pony Club, an application for the rider and their adult supporter/s must be completed and submitted online to the club secretary, along with the specific joining fee. All adult supporters must have a current Victorian Working With Children's Check (WWCC). Membership must be accepted at a committee meeting prior to riding as a club member. Acceptance into the club is not automatic and is at times based on the number of members currently financial within the club.

Membership provides access to all pony club activities. It permits the member to compete in any pony club rings/events at competitions being held throughout the state, and interstate once riders have attended 2 mounted rally's on their horse and are graded by the DC. As attendance at rallies has a direct impact on eligibility to compete, please refer to the PCV rule book for details available on the website <http://www.ponyclubvic.org/>

Parent/ Carer (Adult Supporter) Responsibilities

Membership entails certain responsibilities on the part of all parents. In particular, each child rider must have an adult supporter in attendance at each rally: this can either be a parent or delegated adult. Unfortunately, if a rider does not have an adult supporter in attendance for the whole rally they will not be permitted to ride.

All Adult Supporters are required to provide a current Working With Children's Check (WWCC) as part of their membership application.

MAPC relies on parental support and the success of MAPC is dependent on families of pony club members all being able to contribute in some way. Parents must be willing and prepared to give **20 hours of service each year**: included in these hours is mandatory assistance at 2 club competitions/events each year to which you will be assigned. There are a variety of jobs to do, many of which do not need horse experience such as working bees, setting up and packing up after events, and assisting by completing delegated tasks at events.

Fees

Annual memberships are due by May each year following notification from PCV of their annual fee including insurance levy for 24/7 equestrian activity cover. The membership year aligns with the 1st July to 30th June business/ financial year period.

Please see the separate Membership Fee information for current fees.

Sign in Book

A sign in book is located on the table under the pavilion at the front of the clubrooms.

Club members volunteering at competitions/ clinics must sign in.

Anyone attending a rally must sign in, whether they are a rider, parent, grand parent, sibling or friend. This is required for club insurance and for risk management purposes.

Pony Club Cards

On admission to the club riders will receive a Pony Club Card which is proof of membership of PCV and MAPC. This card is also a record of you and your horses' attendance at rallies and grading for competitions. This card will be kept up to date by the Card Secretary at each Rally. You will need to present your card at Gear Check and collect it at the end of the rally.

Without your card you will be unable to compete at events. It is **your** responsibility to ensure your card is correctly completed with your details, your horses name, (stable name and registered name) and grading. Any errors in the card will prevent you from competing. Alert the DC of any errors immediately. Do not alter the card yourself, only the DC and card secretary can complete the cards.

Uniform

MAPC approved uniform for rally days/ activities are:

- Green polo shirt with club and PCAV logo
- Beige, cream, fawn, banana or white jodhpurs/breeches
- Green jacket with club logo
- Australian Standard approved helmet
- Black or brown smooth soled riding boots
- Gaiters or chaps are optional (should be same colour as boots)
- Bottle green saddle blanket
- Medical armband

Competition uniform:

- Bottle green v neck woolen jumper
- PCAV tie
- White shirt with collar
- Beige, cream, fawn, banana or white jodhpurs/breeches
- Australian Standard approved helmet
- Black or brown smooth soled riding boots
- Gaiters only – must be smooth on exposed side (may be synthetic or leather)
- Green polo shirt with club and PCAV logo for cross country phase in horse trials
- PCAV badge and certificate disc, medical armband
- Bottle green saddle blanket (or white for dressage)

Please see PCV Gear/uniform rules for full explanations. <http://www.ponyclubvic.org/>

Please see the uniform manager to purchase Club polo shirts and jackets.

New members are expected to be in uniform following their 2nd rally.

Rally Days

The primary activity provided to the membership is the club rally. Our rally day is held monthly, with the exception of January, predominantly on the first Sunday of the month and runs from 08:30am (gear check at 9.00am- see below) to 3.30pm. Times may be altered as a result of weather so please check for communication on the MAPC FB page and emails.

The rally is usually divided up into 3-4 lessons and a lunch break. Each group has different activities throughout the day such as dressage, show jumping, cross country, novelties, team games, unmounted education sessions and certificate theory work.

Groups are made up of riders and horses of similar ability. The combination of the skill of a rider and experience of the horse is taken into account when determining groups. Groups are reviewed by the Chief Instructor and DC to ensure all riders progress.

Parents/ adult supporters will be rostered to take their turn at catering duties, being a group leader to assist instructors, and to set up and pack away equipment. This is definitely a case of many hands making light work at the end of a long day. (Rally duties are not included in your 20 hrs of service.)

Attendance

To qualify to compete in pony club competitions, riders must attend 2 full rallies on their horse. To gain attendance at a rally you need to ride in at least 2 sessions on the day. PCV rules allow a rider to qualify 2 horses at a rally as long as the horse is ridden under instruction for at least one session.

Members must have 50% rally attendance (25% for associate members) of his/her club rallies (mounted or unmounted) to compete. A horse/ rider combination must be graded and have attended 2 rallies in the preceding 12 months.

Very important – please tell the Chief Instructor or DC in person if you are leaving a rally early – attendance will not be granted if you do not do this.

Unmounted rallies

Members are encouraged to attend unmounted if they or their horse are 'out of action'. Unmounted members can still participate in club activities and give assistance where needed. Unmounted members must still wear approved uniform/ footwear and report to gear check at the beginning of the rally to have their attendance recorded. An unmounted rally will be recorded on your card.

Instructors

All of our instructors freely volunteer their time to instruct at rallies. They enjoy passing on their knowledge and skills gained through many years of experience. Riders receiving this voluntary service and benefiting from this first-hand information and knowledge can best show their appreciation at all times by being polite and respectful of their instructors. Parents and carers are expected to lead by example by being respectful of instructors and reinforcing this

message to their child/ren. Rudeness or disrespect will not be tolerated and will be addressed by the committee.

In completing and signing the MAPC membership application, all riders and parents are asked to read and agree to the PCV Code of Conduct.

Things to bring for your horse

To ensure the well-being of your horse don't forget to bring a water bucket, feed, halter and lead rope, brushes, hoof oil, and rugs to put on your horse during lunch breaks.

You will need a bridle with bit and reins, and an English style saddle (no horn) for rallies. Bitless bridles must be preapproved prior to riding with them by the DC.

Gear Check

To ensure the safety of the rider and the comfort of your horse, each riding member must attend gear check at the start of each rally – 8:30am. This is carried out by the club gear checkers. Without attending and passing gear check riders are not permitted to join their groups. Failure to attend gear check will mean you will not be given attendance at the rally.

When participating in club activities, all gear and equipment must be clean and well maintained. All leather must have sound stitching. Bridles, bits and saddles should show fit and proper care and maintenance.

To help in preparing yourself and your horse for safe and enjoyable riding, we recommend you read the current PCAV Gear Rules. This is a comprehensive guide, to all gear related matters for both rallies and competitions. Please refer to the PCAV website <http://www.ponyclubvic.org/>

Certificates

During your time at pony club you will work towards attaining PCA efficiency certificates which are awarded for increasing levels of knowledge and horsemanship. The first such certificate is the D certificate for riders 7 years and older. More information will be provided by the DC.

Pony Club Competitions

Grading

To ride at all PC competitions except novelties and gymkhanas you will need to be graded. You and your pony are eligible to be graded after 2 rallies however to be graded the DC must assess your ability. Each PC discipline has its own separate grade, the lowest grade being grade 5 for dressage, combined training and horse trials and F grade for show jumping.

The DC will not grade you for a discipline if they and the Chief Instructor do not think you are capable of competing safely at the prescribed level. This is for your safety and confidence. If you wish to be graded let the DC know (via email) before the rally so they can discuss it with you. **Initial grading must be done at a rally**; subsequent grading can be documented at any time (except at a competition) but must be signed by the DC. Each horse and rider combination must be graded individually.

To compete in Horse Trials you must hold your D efficiency certificate and be 8 years or over. To compete at any state competition, riders must have attained their C Certificate by their 14th birthday (unless they have been a PCAV member for less than two years).

Events

There are many events held throughout the year including MAPC events, Zone events, teams' events and competitions run by other clubs. Information regarding forthcoming events can be found on our website and Facebook page. The Northern Zone website has events and entry forms for all events happening in our zone. **Remember – to compete you need a correctly completed PC grading card for you and your horse, pony club competition uniform and a medical armband.**

Canteen

RALLY DAYS – Parents please bring a 'plate' to share for morning tea. Tea, coffee and rain water are available. Soft drinks, juice and bottled water can be purchased.

Parents are expected to help prepare, serve and clean up after breaks and lunch as well setting up chairs/tables and amenities.

We operate our canteen at events/ competitions. You will be rostered for 3 of these events. Anyone unable to attend for their rostered times is expected to arrange a swap with another parent/ adult supporter.

Yards

Yards are available for members to lease for the duration of their membership for \$90.00. A yard will be allocated to you. The yards coordinator keeps a list of the yard allocations. Please ensure that your yard is left clean, with ropes clipped up, and all manure put in the trailers.

NO MANURE/ STRAW IS TO BE PUT UNDER THE TREES – this quickly kills our native trees but they do appreciate a drink of water when emptying your horses buckets.

Risk Management

Horse riding can be a dangerous sport; to minimise the risks, MAPC has a risk management plan.

Some important points to remember include:

- All riders must have an adult supporter present at all times.
- Young children must be supervised by their adult supporter or delegate at all times.
- Floats and cars are to be parked so that plenty of room is left for horse traffic into yards.
- If a horse is tied to a float, the float must be attached to a car.
- Horses must not be tied up by a bridle. A halter and lead rope must be used (quick release knot through string tied to the fixed object).
- Riders must ride their horses at the walk between lessons and around the yards and floats. You will be asked to dismount and lead your horse if you do not comply.
- Riders are to observe the 'Horse Free Zone' around the clubrooms.
- Horses should be unsaddled when in yards and ensure their water buckets are full

during unmounted lessons and (not to be ridden during) lunch breaks.

- Any falls or injuries must be reported to the first aid officer & secretary immediately, and an incident report completed – this will be sent to PCAV for their insurance records.
- PCV have a concussion policy that must be complied with by all riders and parents. If the first aid officer believes that a rider has sustained a concussion, the rider will not be permitted to remount during the rally. Your support is expected.
- If a fall occurs during a lesson, all riders in the group must dismount and wait a safe distance from the injured rider. The group parent leader will ensure the safety of these unmounted riders until the incident is dealt with.
- Riders are only to jump and/ or canter when an instructor is present.
- Sun Screen is available in the clubroom and riders and parents are encouraged to be sun smart. Please bring a water bottle for hydration during activities/ lessons.

Riding at the Sunraysia Equestrian Centre grounds (SEC)

The SEC grounds are open to MAPC rider members to use as per the SEC Board of Management policy. Usually you can request to use the grounds provided that they have not been booked by another user group or for an event. Please check the calendar on the website.

Please do not ride on the grounds following heavy rain or when the grassed arena has been irrigated (to protect yourself and the surface).

MAPC riders are reminded to observe general safety guidelines at the SEC grounds:

- Always wear approved helmet and footwear.
- Always ride with an adult present.
- Always use correct safe gear and safe horsemanship practices.
- Always ride within your ability and maintain your own safety and the safety of those around you.
- Always check jumps/ ground for safety and only jump to your training level (one level above your graded height).
- Never leave a horse unattended whilst at the SEC grounds.
- Our Cross Country course will be closed for periods during the year for maintenance and for up to 4 weeks prior to an event. Please ensure you read all signage on the main gate and check your emails. Anyone using the course during these closure periods will be disqualified from the event as per PCV/EA rules.

Please refer to the PCV website for all current Rules and Regulations
<http://www.ponyclubvic.org.au/>

Notes

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WHAT KIND OF CLUB MEMBER ARE YOU?

Are you an active member The kind that would be missed?

Or are you just content That your name is on the
list? Do you attend the meetings and Mingle with
the flock? Or do you just stay at home To criticize
and knock?

Do you take an active part To help the work along?

Or are you satisfied To only just belong?

Do you work with your committee And get right in and mix?

Or leave the work to just a few And talk about the "CLIQUEs"?

Think this over MEMBER You know right from
wrong! Are you an active member Or do you just
belong?"

Author Unknown