

# PARACOMBE PONY AND EQUESTRIAN CLUB



Summer 2020

**Have yourselves a VERY merry Christmas!**



It has been great to see so many members taking advantage of the club rallies over the last 6 months. There are more rallies planned ( [12 months of rallies](#) ) and our committee is confident the rallies have something for everyone. The rallies will progress as planned, but weather, Co-vid 19 and other unforeseen circumstances may cause setbacks, so watch on our social media and website to stay up to date. Looking forward to seeing everyone out there!

WE L♥VE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

Our priceless supporters cook, transport, set up, take down, and, perhaps most of all, celebrate and encourage our riding members and their achievements.

May you all have a restful and enjoyable holiday period. See you all in the New Year :-).

Visit and LIKE our new Facebook page to see all the the photos from our rallies: <https://www.facebook.com/paracombeponyclub>

### October 2020: Obstacles and Cross Country Rally

After several days of rain, on a sunny day a small group of riders commenced with a practice round before enjoying the fun of flying over obstacles and jumps. Special thanks to the volunteers who designed and set-up the course, organised the riders, stewarded the gates, and timed. Several visitors attended: watching the events and stopping for an early lunch.



### November 2020: Pony Club Equitation Science Syllabus and Coaching Day with Pam Reid

A great effort by members who worked on the new Equitation Science Syllabus with Rosemary and Sonia. The theory from this syllabus was put into practice when riding under the instruction of Pam.

Pam wrote on her Facebook page that she had a super morning teaching at PPEC, and an endorsement of our club that we should all be very proud of,

*'What a friendly, welcoming club that promotes inclusion for all levels'.*



## December 2020: Trail Ride: What an absolutely fabulous day!

The forecast temperature wasn't reached (thank Goodness), and fifteen horses and riders, plus several energetic souls on foot, set off to explore the orchards and other areas that surround the PPEC grounds.

Sally S and Sarah left Price before the sparrows had even thought about waking up, and had a great time riding through country that is very different to their usual haunts.

Everyone returned, safe and hungry, to find a sumptuous spread; including sausages and chicken wings prepared by Kevin in their absence, and assorted goodies supplied by PPEC Members and guests. Jay Dee! Please remind me to ask for the recipe for the baked cheesecakes!

A truly great way to end the year.



## T'was the night before Christmas, and all through the barn .....

There are many stories about what our horses and their friends get up to on Christmas Eve. The details differ between cultures, and some are not very nice. I guess a well meaning person may have started the legend that pets in France have one minute at 23.59 on each Christmas Eve to tell their neglectful owners how they intend to take their revenge, in the hope that this would make owners think twice before being cruel to the animals they are expected to care for.

A better known legend in Australia is that if you are with your horses at one minute to midnight on Christmas Eve you will witness them having the gift of speech for 60 seconds, until the clocks strike midnight. I'm sure that your horses, like mine, are pretty vocal at all times, and I like to believe that it is actually we humans who are gifted one minute each year of being able to hear them use words. For the remainder of the year we are very fortunate to be able to ask the lovely Dagmar of Animal Communication to translate for us when necessary :-)

No matter our beliefs, what better way to see in Christmas Day than sitting in the moonlight or snuggled up in the stables (depending on where you are in the World) with our horses? Who knows: you might get a BIG surprise :-).



## General Housekeeping :-)

Everyone comes to PPEC to have fun with their horses and friends, and our Committee Members do their absolute best to ensure that everyone always has the best time possible.

Of course, having fun goes hand in hand with the requirement for all of us to comply with regulations set by Pony Club, the Government, and our insurers. We all have a duty of care, not only to ourselves, but to everyone that we ride with; as well as members of the public that we may encounter. Committee Members have the extra responsibility of ensuring that everyone taking part in an activity at PPEC is kept informed of all relevant information, to ensure that everyone is aware of any possible hazards, and of any instructions that need to be followed to minimise risk.

Please do read emails from our Committee: take on board all relevant information, and question anything that is not clear.

On rally days the information that you may have already received by email will usually be repeated verbally: again, please ask for clarification of anything that is not clear. To speed up the process of sharing important information, and getting into the fun, please do respond positively to requests from Committee Members to take a moment from attending to your horse and tack, and ensure that you are fully aware of what is expected of Members on that day.

## Thank you :-)

### Calling all members of the PPEC family

Did you know that you can join the club as a social member for only \$5? Your social membership lets us better understand and support our wonderful extended family, and also helps the committee when applying for grants to maintain and improve the club. ***You can download a membership form at***

<http://www.paracombeponyclub.org.au/forms.html>:

### Booking the main or warm-up arena

Our Facebook page has a **BOOK NOW** button to help everyone share the use of our arenas. T&Cs of use can be found on the website.



Paracombe Pony and  
Equestrian Club  
@paracombeponyclub - Horse riding centre





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## The PPEC Family: get to know more about the people you usually talk horses with

### Welcome! to new members Joanna and Sofia!

Joanna and her sister grew up in Sydney, and rode at local riding schools. When Joanna was 14, her sister found an agistment paddock, and purchased a Purebred Arabian mare, Kismet, with the intention of breeding from her. Joanna convinced her parents that two horses were definitely better than one, and they purchased a Quarter Horse for her. However, Joanna is a talented musician, and her Piano Teacher was horrified at the thought of the possible damage to her fingers that might result from a fall, so her riding activities were consigned to the back seat for a few years.

Three children and a move to Adelaide in November 2019 saw Joanna reawaken her dream of being a horse owner. The family now live on just under 24 undulating acres, where they run Black Faced Suffolk sheep and, at the current count, 4 horses.

Joanna wanted a horse that would be safe for all of the family to ride, loves the personality of Gypsy Cobs, and believes that Partbred Gypsy Cobs make great allrounders. She got in touch with a local breeder who had some Partbred Gypsies for sale and, on visiting the stud, immediately fell in love with two yearlings: a filly and a gelding, which she purchased. All good. Except: what to ride until the yearlings are old enough to be backed? Joanna was offered, and accepted, a TB ex-brood mare who will return to her breeder to live out her days once the Cobs are under saddle: so that was Mum's ride sorted. What about Sofia? Black Jack, well known to PPEC Members, was offered as an ideal mount for Sofia to learn to ride on, and joined the herd. Watch this space; as Sofia's 5 year old brother had a ride on a Shetland recently, and thought it was great fun.

In her spare time (!) Joanna, who is a highly experienced and qualified piano teacher, works as a Registered Music Therapist with a variety of clients, including children with Autism. No referral is required for a consultation or therapy session: check out [www.soundhealthmusic.com.au](http://www.soundhealthmusic.com.au) for more information; and don't forget to say "Hi" next time you see them.



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OKAY  
LET'S  
DO  
THIS

Let's get behind the grant application to part-fund upgrading our facilities.

- Post the flyer everywhere you can (hard copies available from Rachel)
- Ask for help from benevolent relatives and friends
- Seek sponsorship from businesses that you support
- Stick your hand up to help at bbqs and other fund raising activities
- Ask PPEC Committee what YOU can do to help make this happen.

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## Curse or Salvation?

This year many paddocks have displayed a glorious purple carpet courtesy of weather conditions that have enabled seeds of *Echium plantagineum*, which had been lying dormant for up to five years, to sprout. Known as Patterson's Curse in some parts of Australia, Riverina Bluebell (guess where), and Salvation Jane in South Australia, it is related to the culinary herb, Borage, but also to Common Heliotrope, which is toxic.



It is an annual plant, native to Mediterranean Europe, that loves the South Australian climate so much that, since being introduced to Australia as a garden plant in the 1840s, it has become an invasive weed that successfully competes with desirable forage crops and can become the dominant species in a pasture. Sadly, as well as taking over paddocks, it is also toxic to grazing livestock, particularly horses. Sheep are able to graze on it for short periods of time without experiencing toxicity, and it is suggested that the name Salvation Jane was adopted when it was the only feed available, and saved sheep from starvation. Chemicals called pyrrolizidine alkaloids present in the plant cause irreparable liver damage, even to sheep if they graze on it for long enough. If you see the easily identifiable rosettes or flowers as you walk through your paddocks and gardens, bend down and **PULL THEM OUT**, then burn or compost. Fortunately, the plants have reasonably straight tap roots, and are pretty easy to pull out by hand. Each plant can produce more than 5,000 seeds, so it is very important to do this before seeds are set, and preferably before the plant flowers.

Even if you think that your horse isn't at risk, your bank balance may be. Salvation Jane is a declared plant in South Australia. Land owners have a legal responsibility to control it.



PARACOMBE PONY  
AND EQUESTRIAN  
CLUB 2020/21

# RALLIES

EVENTS MAY  
CHANGE  
SUBJECT TO  
WEATHER OR  
OTHER ISSUES

**AUG  
9**

*Jumping  
instruction*

**SEPT  
13**

*Come-&-try  
Freshman's  
Showjumping*

**OCT  
11**

*Obstacles and  
cross-country  
day*

**NOV  
8**

*Pony club  
certificates and  
patches*

**DEC  
13**

*Local trail ride  
and Christmas  
lunch*

**JAN  
9/10**

*Overnight  
camp  
(on site)*

**FEB  
14**

*Horse  
health*

**MARCH  
14**

*Dressage  
instruction*

**APRIL  
11**

*Encourage  
Dressage Day*

**MAY  
9**

*Come-&-try  
polocrosse*

**JUNE  
13**

*Off-site  
trail ride*

[WWW.PARACOMBEPONYCLUB.ORG.AU](http://WWW.PARACOMBEPONYCLUB.ORG.AU)

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