

# PARACOMBE PONY AND EQUESTRIAN CLUB



**Winter 2021**

**Let's be grateful for the rain, and enjoy the Winter sun!**



A strange year, but a great one, filled with fun times with our horses. How fortunate we are in South Australia to have escaped lengthy lockdowns and other restrictions.

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our Volunteers and Sponsors, membership fees for the next financial year remain at \$150. Please complete paperwork and pay your fees before 01 July to ensure that you remain covered by our insurance. Membership forms can be downloaded from <http://www.paracombeponyclub.org.au/forms.html>:

We have a busy few weeks coming up: please make an effort to attend the two working bees, as well as our July Rally and 2021 AGM (see later in this Newsletter for full details). The effort we each put into any club, organisation or activity, is definitely reflected in how much we get back, so why not consider giving up some of your time to volunteer for the PPEC Committee? Our programme for the coming months will be finalised soon, and our Committee welcomes and encourages input from Members in the form of requested and suggested activities. If there is something you would like the Club to consider organising, please email or message a Committee Member. Or, better still, put the idea forward in person at a Committee Meeting.

WE LOVE  
OUR VOLUNTEERS

**Don't forget to take every opportunity you can to thank our wonderful Volunteers for the time and effort they put in to ensuring that we all have fun, while staying safe and compliant :-).**

## April 2021: Dressage Critique Day with Chari-Lee

Members put everything they had learned at our March rally into their dressage tests, and received valuable feedback on their performances. Well done everyone, and thanks, as always, to Chari-Lee.

## May 2021: Come and Try Polo X

A wonderful time was had by everyone who attended. As well as learning ball skills and discovering levels of flexibility some members didn't know they had, the pancakes on offer to celebrate Mothers' Day were greatly appreciated.



## June 2021: Trail Ride

A beautiful Winter's day spent riding through Mount Crawford Forest. How lucky we are to have such beautiful areas to ride in, so close to home.



Visit and LIKE our Facebook page to see more photographs and information about our rallies: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/paracombeponyclub>

## PPEC Members Out and About

Emily and Gabby, Karen and Rory, and Eva and Susan had a great time at the Metro Zone SJ competition on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, hosted by Sunnybrae PC. It was Emily's first official competition, and she is looking forward to lots more. She and Gabby came 3<sup>rd</sup> in F Grade, and won their Equitation class.

Karen and Rory achieved their first clear round, were awarded First Place in F Grade and 3<sup>rd</sup> in E Grade. Karen was very pleased with Rory's performance, and is also looking forward to doing more show jumping in the future.

Eva and Susan calmly completed two clear rounds in the E Grade Competition, and were awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. They cleared the first three jumps of D Grade, but the blue board of the fourth jump, which undid many of the competitors, also proved to be Susan's nemesis. However, Eva didn't hear the elimination bell ring after Susan refused the jump a third time. She persistently replied 'Yes' to Susan's 'Nos', and they went on to complete the course in style. They were also awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Equitation.



Karen and Emily also attended the recent Zone Dressage Day. Rory was awarded Second Place for his Walk Trot test, and 3<sup>rd</sup> for 5B. Emily was competing for the first time, and although Gabby didn't enter the arena in time to be judged, with help from the Judges the pair not only entered the arena, but completed their test.

Eva and Susan competed at the SA Arabian State Champs in led and ridden classes, and left with a swag of ribbons. The photograph below shows The Dynamic Duo cantering in to 'do battle' in the costume class, in which they were awarded third place. First place was awarded to another PPEC Member, Sally Gould-Hurst, riding Malleegrove Mandalla.

Congratulations, also, to Lucy, who was awarded first place in the Five and Under age group of a colouring competition run by The Arabian Horse News. Well done everyone!



# PPEC JULY 2021 CALENDAR

**Thursday 01 July:** Please make sure that membership renewal paperwork has been completed and submitted, together with membership fees, to ensure that you have insurance cover and can attend PPEC activities. Membership forms can be downloaded from <http://www.paracombeponyclub.org.au/forms.html>:

**Sunday 04 July: Working Bee** Please be at our grounds at 10.30 to help lay sleepers.

**Sunday 11 July: Rally** Riding a Drill. Instructor: Sonia Conaghty

**Sunday 18 July: Working Bee** 10.30 at our grounds to assist with arena maintenance, and hooking up white tapes

**Sunday 25 July: 2021 AGM:**

12.00 at our grounds for a delicious lunch (soup and bbq sausages)

13.00: AGM. Please submit nominations for positions on the Committee asap.

## Calling all non-riding 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



# Weeds!

The welcome and much needed rain that we have received will not only enable crops to grow, but will also wake up weed seeds that have been lying dormant, waiting for the opportunity to spring to life and possibly make our horses very ill. In this issue of our Newsletter, we will focus first on three plants that we should do everything we can to eradicate from our paddocks, and finish with one that, although it is considered invasive and needs to be controlled, is beneficial to our horses.

**Marshmallow** begins life as an innocuous looking plant that hugs the ground, but grows,



seemingly overnight, to several feet in height. Its one saving grace is that it has a long, straight, tap root which makes it relatively easy to pull up, even from clay soil. Signs of Marshmallow poisoning include sweating, rapid breathing, and muscle tremors. Some horses also develop mild diarrhoea. The symptoms are exacerbated if the horse is put under stress, or forced to move. Consult your Vet immediately if Marshmallow poisoning is suspected.

**Cape Weed** can cause Magnesium deficiency in horses who eat it, which manifests as



abnormal nervousness and Australian Stringhalt: a condition that is most evident if the horse is turning or backing. The hind leg or legs over flex, resulting in an obvious abnormal gait. Cape Weed flourishes in over grazed paddocks. I have been told that one way to control it is to import a large herd of Emus, who pull off the flowers and prevent the plants setting seed. I have no idea if this is true :-). Another remedy is to treat the paddocks with Dolomite. Apparently, as well as nourishing the soil, if the horses eat the mineral (which is comprised partly of Magnesium) along with the Cape Weed, the ingested Dolomite will increase the amount of Magnesium absorbed by the horse's gut.

**Deadly Nightshade** contains Atropine, which also has a powerful effect on the nervous system. Nightshade poisoning has usually resulted from eating contaminated hay, but horses may eat the fresh plant if no other food source is available to them.



Symptoms of Nightshade poisoning include dilated pupils, dry mouth, light sensitivity, an irregular heartbeat, muscle tremors and convulsions. Call your Vet immediately if your horse exhibits any such symptoms.

**Rosehips** are the fruit that forms from rose flowers. Dog Rose bushes are a common sight along fence lines in the Adelaide Hills, and as someone who harvests them when I have the opportunity, I write from experience when stating that if the bushes are covered in hips, we can expect a cold, wet Winter. How do the bushes know to produce a good crop of fruit when favourable (to them) weather is coming? I have no idea, but Autumns when I have struggled to find hips to harvest have all been followed by mild, dry Winters.



When I have fed whole, fresh hips to our horses, they have tended to roll them around in their mouths, and then spit them out. However, if I split the hips open, the horses eat them with enthusiasm and come back for more. When I have let the horses roam around the garden and have the opportunity to help themselves, they quickly learn that if they stand by the bushes with an expectant look on their faces, I will harvest and split the hips open for them; with my arms, rather than their noses, battling the thorns. Rose hips are rich in vitamins and antioxidants, but, also, sugars; so should be fed with caution to laminitic horses and ponies.

The PPEC Committee couldn't offer the wonderful opportunities and experiences currently available to our Members without the generous support of our Sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge their sponsorship, and encourage everyone to promote and support these businesses whenever possible.

**Lakeside Nissan:** <http://www.lakesidenissan.com.au/about-us/> For more than 10 years the Uren Family and their friendly staff at **Lakeside Nissan**, have been selling and servicing New and Used vehicles in Pooraka and the surrounding area, and actively supports our local community, charities and sporting clubs. They enhance your buying experience by providing expert after sales service with **courtesy pick-up** and **drop-off convenience**, knowing your car is being treated with the **care and professionalism** you would expect in our large and modern workshop service area. Their team are dedicated to providing you with the best of care at all times, so whether you are buying, selling or leasing come and experience the difference at Lakeside Nissan.

### JMS Rural: rural fencing contractors



Contact Jarrad on 0407 987 098 for all your fencing work. You won't be disappointed.

### Simpson Crash Repairs Churchill Rd, Kilburn

Having an accident can be stressful, getting your car repaired doesn't have to be. Simpson's team of professionals are experienced in the latest body repairing techniques so you can rest assured your vehicle will be repaired to the highest possible standard. Contact Leanne at



[leanne@simpsoncrash.com](mailto:leanne@simpsoncrash.com)

### Hooves, Paw and Claws 133 Tolley Rd, St Agnes:

See us for all of your pet needs. Chook foods, horse feeds, dog & cat feeds and supplies and don't forget about your rabbit and guinea pig. We also cater for your pet birds.

Contact Julie [sales@hoovespawsandclaws.net.au](mailto:sales@hoovespawsandclaws.net.au)



### The Green Shed 239 Kenton Valley Road, Gumeracha khv@internode.on.net



The Baldasso Family offer a wide range of fresh fruit & vegetables. They specialise in Certified Organic and Chemical Free Produce. Visit and taste award winning wines, and experience the genuine friendly service at the farm gate shop.