



## **GEARYS GAP PONY CLUB RALLY DAY INFORMATION BRIEF**

This rally day information brief has been prepared to assist our members and their families in participating and contributing to rally day, to make it an enjoyable and fulfilling day for all concerned.

### **RALLY DAY**

Rallies are generally held on the second Sunday of every month. Event dates and any changes to these dates are announced on the Gearys Gap facebook page and website. The club Secretary will email members a week prior to rally day to ask for RSVPs. Facebook reminders will also be posted. By ensuring they RSVP, members are assisting the Club Captain in the forward planning of sessions and instructors and for purchasing of lunch supplies.

Rallies consist of 2-4 sessions (dependent on availability of instructors), morning tea and lunch break.

- Summer times (November – March inclusive) – 8:00am gear check – 8:30am start
- Winter times (April – October inclusive) – 9:00am Gear check for 9:30am start

Our rallies commence with gear check on the main open paddock in front of the dressage arena.

Check the white board on the hitching rail to find out who is the nominated gear checker for the day.

Only once you are gear checked and cleared may you enter the dressage arena and ride your horse at a walk until forming troop line awaiting commencement of the rally day.

If a rider is late for the start of the first session, and has missed troop line-up they must still be gear checked prior to commencement.

It is at the instructor's discretion when or if you are able to join a session midway.

Please respect that joining midway may disrupt the focus of the group and that you may be asked to wait until the next session.

### **PARKING**

Space is limited in the float area so it is reserved only for vehicles with trailers or trucks. Vehicles without a trailer are required to park up in the clubhouse carpark.

When parking your car and float in the float area please file in and park from the top downwards to maximise the area. The main grounds are not to be used for parking.

## **GROUPS**

When riders join GGPC, you will be placed in a riding group based on your riding level and current capability.

Your group will change in accordance with your progression and partnership with your horse. This is not always a neat fit from rally day to rally day and we ask that there is some understanding and flexibility in accepting how the groups are divided up, club captains are doing their best.

## **CARDS**

When you arrive at pony club on rally days, please bring your membership/attendance card and place them in the card box at the clubhouse desk. Your card will be signed off prior to the end of the day.

It is the responsibility of each rider/parent to check the cards are correctly filled out and to collect them at the end of rally day.

## **GRADINGS**

Riders are formally graded at pony club for show jumping and cross country and this is usually how the riders are grouped for rally day sessions. Grading starts at Introductory, E, D C, B & A grade.

Pony club grading procedures aren't always well understood so here are some of the basics so that parents, kids and our volunteer instructors are all on the same page. Even if you're not a jumping family yet, it's good to know how it works.

- Most kids go up the grades in jumping by accumulating points at pony club competitions. Pack your jump card in the tack box or towing car so you don't forget it. No card, no jump!
- Otherwise, grading is done using a show jump course under show jump rules (i.e. warm up then a complete course) as opposed to a normal rally day instructional activity.
- To be given a grading, the combination of horse and rider must show control of the pace, change of direction, the ability to jump the height for the grade for which they are being assessed and to exhibit a sound lower leg position throughout the round.
- The course should be inviting and fair with at least two changes of direction and one combination.
- When riders are being graded they must jump a course confidently and show one raise of at least 5 cm.
- For grading anything over D grade level, our Zone Chief Instructor needs to be part of the team assessing the grading.
- Riders have to let the club know when they've been graded up or down, or have a new horse and need re-grading.

Sound complicated? It is a little and it has to be done at lunch break or after normal rally day sessions, so a lot of effort goes into grading our kids. As parents, it's important to remember that safety and fun are the two top priorities of pony club. Don't put pressure on kids to jump higher than they're comfortable with or ask instructors to grade higher than is safe for that horse and rider combination.

For detailed information please visit:

[http://pcansw.org.au/docs/general/45/section\\_09.pdf](http://pcansw.org.au/docs/general/45/section_09.pdf)

## **GEAR CHECK**

Gear check is the 'safety' part of the day. It is to ensure that all our tack (saddles/bridles etc) are in approved condition and correctly fitted. Riders are not permitted to mount their horse until they have passed gear check by the nominated gear checker.

### **GEAR**

- Saddle/Saddle blanket/pads
- Girth
- Stirrups and leathers
- Boots/leg wraps
- Bridle/Bit/Reins/Halters and lead ropes

### **HORSE**

- Clean brushed coat, including mane and tail
- Age, health and condition suitability for attendance
- Hoof maintenance
- Temperament, vices and soundness of horse
- No stallions

### **RIDER**

- Clean and neat – club polo/sun shirt or other suitable polo and jodhpurs or suitable long pants
- Medical armbands (Compulsory if the rider has a medical condition)
- Long hair tied back and neat.
- Boots cleaned
- No jewellery - earrings (can be taped)
- Watches need to be fitted correctly.
- Helmets need to be approved, clean and fitted correctly with no falls.

The main aim of gear check is to educate our members and parents on the correct fit of equestrian gear. More information can be found in the PCANSW handbook on equipment.

## **DUTIES**

A requirement of each family (parents and riders) is to help out through the year at rally day to help set up and clean up. A roster will be maintained of members that attend rally days.

When a member and their family arrive on rally day they will need to check the whiteboard at the hitching rail what task has been assigned to them. If you haven't RSVP'd the whiteboard will be updated to ensure that you are still assigned a task and that no one family is burdened with having to remain behind and tidy up after everyone.

Example, but not limited to, of tasks:

- Bringing gear out from the storeroom
- Setting up and packing down the jump arena
- Set up lunch tables
- Wiping tables and chairs and packing them away,
- Sweeping and mopping floors and cleaning toilets. As the hall is a communal facility we are required to leave it clean and tidy for the next user.
- Packing away any gear away in the field.

## **MORNING TEA**

Members are asked to contribute to morning tea with a small plate of food to share at each rally day– e.g. biscuits, fruit, cake, chips etc

## **LUNCH**

Lunch will be prepared by our Canteen Committee members at a cost of \$5 per head. Usually consisting of either a salad roll, chicken burger, sausage sandwich or a hot roast roll and will include a small pack of chips and a drink.

## **RIDER CERTIFICATES**

Throughout their Pony Club career, riders are encouraged to undertake various efficiency tests according to their age and ability - commencing with the basic 'E' Certificate through to the 'A' Certificate. These certificates aim to encourage the interest and improvement in knowledge of its members. They are viewed as a measure of a rider's progress in their overall efficiency. In working for them riders acquire valuable knowledge and skills, which enhance their riding experience.

For riders that attend Zone 16 camp, it is recommended that they start the workbooks well beforehand so they can hand them to be marked at camp. There will be sessions at camp for troops to do the practical and theory sections of the workbooks. For riders that do not attend camp they are still able to obtain and

complete the workbook and assessment can be done at rally days by an approved instructor.

The club has some activity books for sale, talk to a committee member at rally day if you would like more information or check out

<http://www.pcansw.org.au/coaching/rider-certificates>

### **BUY, SWAP or SELL**

Each rally day a table will be set up at the club house for members to sell any gear. Please label your gear with a price/offer and your name. Gear, at all times, remains the responsibility of the owner.