

2013 Dec Presidents Report.

2013 has been a busy year again for the Seville Pony Club!!

Major improvements to the grounds including drainage, arena maintenance, fencing and the revamped cross country course have taken place by our very passionate grounds team, parents, riders and support from the local community.

Our riders and club have featured in at least 2 local papers and had great success at Zone, Interzone and local competitions.

The club has strong membership numbers with an ever increasing waiting list. If only our grounds could miraculously grow and we could take on all of the riders who are patiently waiting a place at the club.

The committee had some changes during this year with new members including myself. As riders and families, please make yourself known to our fantastic committee and remember to say thank you for the work they do. Each month, hours are spent on organising, organising, organising, websites, grading cards, risk management, zone meetings, canteen, competitions, rallies, instructors, certificates, grounds maintenance and improvements, complaints handling, finance and making sure the club is on track and the pony club purpose and values are being met whilst hopefully making the club a fun and enjoyable place to be for the riders and families. I personally would like to thank our fantastic committee and extra helpers for the amazing amount of hours that is volunteered to run the club each year.

A special thank you again this year to Jeremy and Jacqui for running the canteen. This really is a big job and we are lucky to have Jeremy and Jacqui keep everything running smoothly each month and for our competitions.

Working bees are often approached with the attitude of . . . 'Oh no, not another working bee!!!' This has not been the case at SPC this year, our working bees have been well attended and our grounds are looking brilliant. Thankyou Seville families for all of your efforts this year, many of you have volunteered ad hoc without being asked.

Our riders this year again have made SPC a great place to be, from red group to black group you are all amazing. Consistently we have received feedback from competition officials about our riders, their presentation, sportsmanship and overall excellent conduct. Great Job!!

A junior committee has just been formed with some great feedback and refreshing ideas. We look forward to the year ahead with you all.

Into next year we have the annual Horse Trials on Feb 23rd and planning is well underway. This event is the major fundraiser for the year and is much needed to fund the club annually. **Just a reminder that it is a condition of SPC membership that all families must volunteer and assist with the Horse Trials.** We will be contacting everyone for their preferred jobs.

On the Horse Trials, Jo Darby will be retiring as dressage co-ordinator after this Horse Trials and we are looking for some-one to assist and learn this year with the intention to "take the reins" for 2015. Please contact myself or Jo if you would like to know more about what this involves.

This year has seen both Seville Saddlery and the NRG team provide sponsorship on an ongoing basis.

Please think of them when you are making purchases of your horse “stuff” and remember to introduce yourself as a member of Seville Pony Club. Kim has a great range in store, is very helpful and NRG can certainly help make your horse sparkle!

Hopefully summer will shine on us soon and everyone will get to do lots of riding over the holidays. Remember that the top arena is always open for riding. The Cross Country course is code locked and available to SPC riders only. You are welcome to have your instructor teach you on the course and it is preferred that you ride with an adult present. We ask that you use common sense and only attempt obstacles that are within yourself and your horse’s capabilities. From time to time we are changing the code as we have found non-members riding on the course. Obviously we would prefer not to have to do this and ask that you keep the code private to help us from needing to be the “fun police”. You can text me for the code at any time on 0407 545 188 .

Black Group has been working hard organising the Christmas Rally.

We really need everyone to stay for pack-up please. Wandin riders will need to all leave together after pack-up has been completed.

After the rally, we are meeting back at the clubrooms at 4.30pm with presentations at approx. 5 pm.

The club will be providing a roast from the Seville Butchers.

Families A-K please bring dessert and L-Z please bring a salad.

BYO chairs, drinks and nibbles.

As we close the year I thought I might reflect on what Pony Club is all about:

- To encourage young people to ride and to learn to enjoy all kinds of sport connected with horses and riding
- To provide instruction in riding and horsemastership and to instil in members the proper care of their animals.
- To promote the highest ideals of sportsmanship, citizenship and loyalty, thereby cultivating strength of character and self-discipline

My challenge to all riders into the New Year is to think about Pony Club and seize opportunities to try “all kinds of sports connected with horses and riding”. Most of our riders have regular lessons with their horses at home and part of our role at Pony Club is to give you exposure to different experiences. It may be trail riding, games, dressage to music, being part of a team, riding at State level or as simple as experiencing different styles of instruction.

May I wish everyone a safe and Merry Christmas and thank you for a great 2013.

Happy Riding,

Di Harvey

President SPC 2013