



Brookfield Horse & Pony Club Newsletter

JULY 2021

NEWS UPDATE

Next muster:

Sunday 25 July 2021

NOTE: 9.00 am start – formal winter uniform

Muster Dates for 2021 – half way through our muster year!!

25 July

15 August

19 September

24 October

21 November

Other BHPC Dates for 2021

Show jumping clinics, coached by Sasha Ulasowski:

- **8 August**
- **5 September**
- **10 October**
- **7 November**
- **3 December**

BHPC Combined Training - 1 August

Fun Day - 12 September

Derby Day - 11 October

Awards & AGM - 28 November

Pony Club Queensland (PCQ) compliant gear

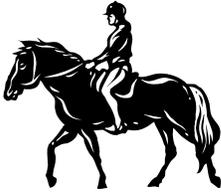
To be covered by PCQ insurance when riding, the gear you use on your horse, as well as your own riding gear must comply with PCQ requirements.

Body Protectors are now compulsory for schooling and competing over cross-country fences at any time. From 1 Jan 2021, body protectors must be manufactured after 2009 and the label complies to one of these: BETA 2018 Level 3, BETA 2209 Level 3, EIN13158:2009 Level 3. (Jan 2021).

Helmets - Remember to check your helmet for compliance with PCQ regulations. *This is each rider's responsibility.*

For information on gear, uniforms and Pony Club rules for the various disciplines, go to "Rule Books" at

<https://ponyclubqld.com.au/resources/rulebooks/>



Chief Instructor's Report

June Muster

Thanks to Liz for organising the muster, and the instructors who were able to help on the day. We had 26 riders attend, and great to see 1 adult rider and a "Come and Try Pony Club" rider along. Thanks to everyone for a fun day, and a quick and efficient pulldown.

The muster was superbly enhanced by the skills of Suse Davies, our guest show jumping coach for the day. A special thank you to Michelle Beatty who spent all day imparting groundwork skills, including moving the horse's body, pressure-release, ask and reward and other aspects in the new PCA syllabus taught in a most innovative and fun way. Riders also enjoyed a novel Ride to Time activity on the oval to learn to ride at a certain speed, cross country jumping, games and stockman's challenge.

Liz reports that the set up and pull down were the most enthusiastic and efficient of any she has ever been involved in, with thanks to Felicity for her encouragement and motivation.

Rules reminder

Saddling safety – Young children need assistance with saddling and bridling, and should be encouraged to wear their helmet in the stable for safety. When being saddled, horses should be tied up by their halter to a baling twine loop on a post, and should not be eating.

Stables - Wooden gates and chains must be closed at all times, and left closed at the end of the day.

Manure in the cemetery paddock

If you park your float in the cemetery paddock car park, you must remove manure or place it around trees. Please do not leave it where your horse was tied to the fence or float. Clean up leftover hay so that the community can see that we leave the grounds tidy.

Next muster Sunday 25 July: 9.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Plan to arrive by 8.30 am to be ready for a 9.00 am start. Activities will include dressage and show jumping to encourage our riders to participate at our BHPC Combined Training event on Sunday 1 August. Combined Training is a two phase competition, Dressage followed by a Showjumping Course. There are Official classes for riders with performance cards, and also Unofficial classes with simpler dressage tests (walk/trot only) and lower jumping heights for younger riders or those starting out in competition. Print out your test to practise at the muster!!

Riders will also practise youth handler and games in preparation for our Formal Gymkhana at our August muster.

Please let Sandy know if you are coming to the muster or not coming by 5 pm Wednesday 21 July (sandypollitt@hotmail.com or text 0400 952002). It is very important to do this to allow us to organise rider groups and catering.

Note that uniform at Winter musters is Formal Uniform. This is long sleeved beige shirt, tie and tie pin, instead of the informal polo shirt. A green pullover or sleeveless vest can be worn. (This is the official Brookfield uniform required if you are competing at any PCQ events). Please contact Emma our uniform co-ordinator for assistance with uniform supplies (Emma Tait at emmatait74@gmail.com).

Show jumping lessons with Sasha

The show jumping clinic with Sasha on Sunday 11 June included a serpentine show jumping exercise that built confidence and skill in the riders who attended. Regular clinics are now planned approximately monthly for the rest of the year. Look out for emails from Emma and Kate about the clinics if you are interested and book promptly.

BHPC Management Committee Report

BHPC Combined Training event

Our BHPC Official and Unofficial Combined Training event is on Sunday 1 August. The CT programme is attached. A great chance for young or inexperienced riders to start their competition life at their own club

competition with their friends cheering them on. Please support this club event.

We will also need volunteers on the day to help with the running of the event. Please fill out the roster that Robyn has sent out to the club with the time that you can help.

Working Bee requirements

There are a number of families who have not completed their working bee requirements for 2021. Sandy has a list of jobs that need to be done before the Combined Training day on Sunday 1 August. These can be done at a time that suits you. Please email Sandy for a working bee job that your family can complete (sandypollitt@hotmail.com).

Grants

The Club has been fortunate to receive a grant from the Qld Govt Active Restart Infrastructure Recovery Fund. This funding was available for not-for-profit sport and active recreation organisations to support their return to play and encourage the Queensland community to re-engage with physical activity post-COVID-19. The funding granted to BHPC has enabled the clubhouse roof renovation to be undertaken, and a new BBQ and a larger trolley to be purchased. In the photo, you can see the new trolley was extremely useful for Mark moving around lots of heavy things.



The Lord Mayor's Covid 19 Direct Assistance Program provided funding to BHPC that was used for the aeration and regrassing of the area in front of the Rita O'Hanlon arena.

The Club is extremely grateful for this funding from these 2 sources to enable these improvements to be done and useful equipment to be purchased. Many thanks to Rebecca, Veronica and Ros for their efforts in securing grants for BHPC in the past 2 years.

Rita O'Hanlon arena and long yard arena

The large Rita O'Hanlon arena and the long yard have now been laser levelled as part of BHPC's ongoing maintenance of these facilities. They are both dragged with the raked every month, but laser levelling gives a better uniform depth to the sand.

Remember to book your use of the Rita O'Hanlon arena using your gmail email account. For access to booking, please contact Emma our Arena co-ordinator (emmatait74@gmail.com).

The long yard and oval are facilities managed by the Brookfield Reserve Trust. Riding members of BHPC may use the long yard arena and oval without charge. Junior members must be accompanied by an adult or instructor. Please note that the long yard cannot be used if there is a cricket match or other event occurring.

For the long yard, riders must book on-line 2 days before use to gain approval from the Showground booking officer. Fill out your booking details, including your Pony Club membership number, on the Brookfield showground webpage at <https://www.brookfieldshowground.com.au/facilities-for-hire/the-long-yard/> .

The long yard accommodates one booking only at any time. All manure must be removed.

The Rita O'Hanlon arena, long yard and oval are for training only at steady paces - absolutely no galloping around. All riders must wear a suitable riding helmet (current standard required by PCQ), riding boots and Pony Club compliant gear.

Show jumping setup refresher course 101

With show jumping planned for our next muster, it is essential for parents and children who are helping with setup to know some of the basics about setting up a show jump. You need to know what a 'jump wing' or a 'jump cup' is, a vertical or spread jump is, and which direction to stand the wings. So here is a refresher for some of you, and a whole new world for our new members.....

Our BHPC jump wings have keyhole tracking attached to allow use of our white standard jump cups and black safety breakaway cups. When setting up a show jump fence, place the jump wings with the keyhole strips and holes facing into the jump so that the cups and poles can be attached.



Keyhole tracking



Vertical or upright fence with 5 poles or rails



Standard white jump cups for holding rail (top) or flat plank

Vertical or upright show jumps are fences built in a vertical plane, with poles or planks placed directly above each other with no spread or width to jump. These fences have a single wing at each end and the standard white jump cups are used for the rails.

Spread fences or oxers are jumps that have both height and spread, with 2 wings at each end of the fence, a number of poles on the front set of jump wings, and a single rail on the back set of jump wings. Pony Club Australia mandates the use of breakaway cups on the back rail as a safety requirement. If a horse misjudges a wide spread fence and lands on the back rail, the breakaway cup comes apart, with the cup section sliding down out of the backing plate, and the jump rail falls to the ground, with the horse less likely to be injured.



Spread fence or oxer



Breakaway jump cup with cup section able to slide down out of the backing plate

BHPC has black FEI approved breakaway cups that fit into the keyhole tracking on our jump wings. When using them, ensure that the 2 parts are put together so the cup part can slide downwards out of the backing plate.

If numbers are to be attached to the jumps to mark a course of fences, the number is placed on the right hand side wing on the approach side of the jump. If coloured flags are used to mark the direction in which a practice fence is to be jumped, the white flag is attached to the left hand side wing on the approach side, and the red flag to the right hand side wing.



Vertical fence marked with white and red flags

That's a lot to take in, but it will make it easier when it's your turn to help with show jumping setup!!!!

TOXIC PLANTS - FIREWEED

Fireweed seems to be really thriving after the recent rain, and its TOXIC to horses!!

Fireweed is an introduced weed that competes strongly with pasture species and is toxic to livestock. It looks like a daisy with little yellow flowers. Fireweed plants are 10–60 cm tall. Most fireweed is low growing, with many branches.

Fireweed can be an annual but many plants do survive through the summer, so plants of all ages can be present at the same time. Most seedlings appear between March and June then grow quickly to produce their first flowers in 6–10 weeks. Fireweed usually begins to die back in spring. The top growth dies, leaving the base and roots that can last through the summer and re-grow in the following autumn.



Fireweed contains chemicals called pyrrolizidine alkaloids. Livestock that eat it get liver damage. The damage is irreversible and gets worse the more fireweed an animal eats. Hay or grain contaminated with fireweed plants or seeds can poison livestock.

Horses that eat enough of the plant can develop photosensitisation with unpigmented skin becoming sensitive to sunlight, reddening and peeling away. Brain damage can occur. Symptoms can include dullness, an uncoordinated gait, reduced awareness and possible blindness.

For long-term fireweed control combine grazing strategies, pasture improvement, and strategic herbicide use. Pull out individual plants in small, isolated patches or sensitive environmental areas. Wear gloves to protect skin from the plant's poisons. Bag and dispose of the pulled out plants. Fireweed remains toxic after being cut and becomes more attractive to stock and thus more likely to cause poisoning.

Visit [Fireweed \(daf.qld.gov.au\)](http://daf.qld.gov.au) for more information.

Please scour your paddocks for this poisonous plant, it must not be left to multiply and spread throughout your paddocks and neighbourhood.

BROOKFIELD HORSE & PONY CLUB SPONSORS



Please support the businesses that support our club

Thank you to our long term sponsors
Bendigo Bank and WestVets



Their continued generosity supports the purchase of equipment, ribbons and trophies, as well as allowing us to run Official PCQ events.

A big thank you to James' Connoisseur Meats of Kenmore who delivered to us 300 burger patties at very short notice on Saturday night at the Brookfield Show. Without this, we would have run out of burgers that night!! Please support these helpful butchers.

