



GIBBER GABBER

June/July 2010

Zone 16 Mounted Games



Thanks to all our riders, parents, siblings and families who helped make the 2010 mounted games championships the fabulously fun weekend that it was!!!

Check out the report on our website.

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Dates for July 2010

RALLY DAY – **SUNDAY 11 JULY**

RALLY DAY – **SUNDAY 25 JULY**

GEAR CHECK 9.30AM

RIDING FROM 10.00AM

WORKING BEES:

Peter Evans would like 2 or 3 people on **Saturday morning 10 July** to commence fixing the exterior wall sheets on the clubhouse.

Please call Peter Evans on 6238 3043 if you can help.

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

Tuesday 27 July, 7.30pm

Evans Residence, 375 Wirreanda Road

All Associate and Senior Members welcome!

OUT & ABOUT REPORTS

BEEN TO AN EVENT? Why not tell the GG Editor or write a brief article yourself for publication in your club's newsletter? Go on, don't be shy!!!! We love to hear about how everyone is having fun with their equine friends!



Above: Jack Durr and his pony Jack. On page 1, Ally Durr and her pony Gypsy.

Below: Andrea and Pog



Above: Tyla and Oz Boy

Below: Emma and Fudge



Above: Katie and Tia, leading Jed and Lauren sprinting in the Tyre Race.

All photos thanks to Catherine Daniels

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING ZONE 16 EVENTS

PCA NSW REGIONAL EVENTING SCHOOL

WHEN: SATURDAY 31 JULY AND SUNDAY 1 AUGUST
PLACE: BUNGENDORE SHOWGROUNDS – RIDERS MUST
BE 12 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER AND HOLD THEIR C
CERTIFICATE

ENTRIES CLOSE 23 July

See www.zone16.pcansw.org.au for full
details.

ZONE 16 INSTRUCTORS SCHOOL

WHEN: SATURDAY 31 JULY AND SUNDAY 1 AUGUST
PLACE: BUNGENDORE SHOWGROUNDS

See www.zone16.pcansw.org.au for full
details.

ZONE 16 GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: WEDNESDAY 21 JULY
PLACE: CRC CLUBHOUSE, 7.30PM START

See www.zone16.pcansw.org.au for full
details.

ZONE 16 ONE DAY EVENT

WHEN: 15 AUGUST 2010
PLACE: EQUESTRIAN PARK, CURTIN

See www.zone16.pcansw.org.au for full
details. ENTRIES CLOSE with Louise (our
Secretary) on Friday 30 July.

**ALL MEMBERS SHOULD CHECK THE ZONE 16
WEBSITE REGULARLY FOR IMPORTANT NOTICES
TO ALL MEMBERS.**

The Pony Club Family (an article by Les Worden)

What is the Pony Club Family?

This is a group of well meaning, hard working (on occasions), well drilled and reliable cluster of people who are the family of most Pony Clubs. Wamboin is no exception; we have a mixture of people who make up that pyramid of perplexity of the club.

We have our:

- demanders and pushers
- plodders, who get the job done eventually
- diehards who are always there
- tacticians and planners
- riders and horses
- juniors
- information seekers and givers
- part-timers
- supporters
- Taxi's
- Money spenders (all parents)

This motley group of people make up most clubs and without them a club would not run.

BUT: We must remember the backbone of all clubs is those families that put their children first and give up that valuable time to support this crazy sport of horse riding.

Unfortunately or should I correct that and say fortunately (with tongue in cheek) I am a member of that group, that tries, as much as possible to support my children (now down to one riding child) in their quest for pleasure and fame, with a little bit of fun thrown in. My moments of madness were highlighted when my blonde haired, blue eyed teenager asked her father to accompany her to the 2010 Zone 16 Pony Club Camp. Not knowing, at first this was a request for the two of us to camp at the Bungendore Showground, I agreed.

After I had fallen for this "eye rolling" request, it dawned on this "idiots" face that I was stuck with this horse mad "crazy" for a whole week. No escape to work for night shifts or dayshifts while she was riding, no it was there every morning, all day and then at night

..... "what had I got myself into".

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB MATTERS

JOBS TO BE DONE ON A RALLY DAY

Every rally day there are a number of jobs to be undertaken in order to support our riders to ride and the instructors to instruct. As a small club, the jobs to be done will mean that pretty much each rally day all mums, dads or other support people will be involved in performing at least one job. Our Vice President, Leanne, will be drawing up job rosters and EVERY FAMILY will be on these rosters. The jobs to be done on a rally day can be broken down into three key groups:

1. SET UP OF EQUIPMENT
2. CANTEEN DUTY
3. PACK UP OF EQUIPMENT

For EQUIPMENT SET UP: the rostered families will need to be at the pony club grounds at around 9.15am. The Instructors will either be on the grounds to provide guidance on what equipment is needed where or they will have contacted you before hand with their equipment needs. Your job is to set up the necessary equipment by 10.00am on the rally day, ready for the riders to commence the riding activities.

FOR CANTEEN DUTY: Alison Evans is our Canteen Coordinator and she will ensure a suitable meal plan is fully supplied. Your job on canteen duty is to set up the clubhouse (unstack chairs, tables etc, unlock the toilets etc); do food preparation, including BBQ when required; serve food; clean up and pack up the canteen.

FOR EQUIPMENT PACK UP: at the conclusion of riding activities for the day, all equipment used must be packed away again and secured. NO ONE should leave the grounds until all the equipment has been packed away. Pack up often provides a great opportunity for the riders themselves to assist and demonstrate other attributes (other than riding ability) that are considered each year in the annual awards.

The Pony Club Family continued..

Hiring a great "JOHNNO'S Camper Trailer from our local distributor Rod and Fiona Kildey, we were set for our week long adventure. The usual pre-camp tasks were carried out on the Saturday, like erecting horse yards, setting up events, cleaning kitchens and food areas, cleaning toilets and showers and generally getting everything up and going for the Monday commencement.

Then on Sunday it happened, the skies opened up and those four legged fiends, their every present two legged offsideers and their down trodden assistants, namely parents and siblings dumb/smart enough not to ride, started to appear. These four legged, poverty making feed machines came in all sizes and shapes, their colours were many, and the people with them were just as mysterious. The area zoned for horses was like a beehive, with all those little bees buzzing around the yards. Floats were stacked in rows, unloaded and horses packed away in their little "cubbyholes". Once these pampered animals were set, it was time for the riders to find shelter and commence their rituals of "dorm" settling, and preparing their beds, of all descriptions, ready for that long week.

Laura's little "Paddock Princess" Annie was placed in the Thoroughbred Group in the middle of the allotted zone close to the feed shed. This made it easy for her and her troop to get their horses feed early. Once settled in and introduced to their fellow troop mates they were presented to their Troop Leader - was Laura lucky that her Troop Leader was her mum or did she feel disadvantaged, only time would tell? Then it was all go as they started their week of horsemanship, including riding, jumping, games, sport and that dreaded theory; oh! Don't forget the food.

Prior to Laura going on this camp, both Jeni and I had pulverised her brain with questions, so she could sit for her C Certificate. There wasn't a day go by for weeks prior to this event that she didn't get some sort of test on parts of her horse or saddle, weed, diseases, Pony Club Executives and any other thing we could come up with.

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WAMBOIN PONY CLUB MATTERS

JOB ROSTER

RALLY DAY	CANTEEN	GEAR SET UP/PACK UP
11 July	QUICK	BALDWIN
25 July	WENSING/WOODROW	BROWN
8 August	HARRIS	EVANS
22 August	THOMPSON	SUTCLIFFE

IF YOU CAN'T FULFILL YOUR ROSTER ON THE SPECIFIED DAY, PLEASE ARRANGE A SWAP WITH SOMEONE WHO CAN.

The Pony Club Family continued..

We gave her drawings to complete, true and false questions, showed her pictures of weeds and even borrowed Mrs Purdie's notes to get her ready for her exam. It didn't stop there, I hit her with questions every time I saw her at camp, and Jeni asked all the troop questions all week. To our surprise it paid off with Laura passing her C Certificate test with a perfect score – Well done.

Laura made new friends, met up with old acquaintances and thoroughly enjoyed her week at camp, even if she had to sleep in the trailer with her snoring dad (sorry Toni). At the end of the week Laura was presented with the Troop Person award. As Jeni was Troop Leader and wasn't sure it would be fair to omit Laura from her calculations on who deserved the award, the troop agreed to submit votes, by secret ballot, on who they believed was worthy of the two awards nominated, namely Best Troop Person and Most Improved.

The rest of the family, namely Les, Brodie and Matthew, performed their allotted duties in the kitchen, on the days Wamboin was allocated. Then whilst Brodie was required to stay home and monitor the builders, the Ferret (Matthew) and I carried out whatever job was thrown at us. I must say the Ferret was in his element and there wasn't a day he wasn't at the forefront, assisting Michael (head chef) in any task given to him.

Laura enjoyed her week, with the riding, disco, performances and food – don't forget the food. It was an experience for Jeni being Troop Leader and I believe everyone should have at least one go at this. It definitely opens one's eyes to the different cultures, training and the different attitudes of the members of the team. It was an experience for me to have a young lady in the tent, with all her quirks, and the way she perceived our relationship. No longer was she my little girl, who would do everything her father asked, now she was a young female teenager with her own ideas and - boy! Dad you need to learn quickly what they are.

Well the week flew and it was back to normality and I felt the relief flood my body – but what's that you are saying missy – Showjumping. Yes we were off again and it was showjumping at Equestrian Park. It was load the float with the "Paddock Princess" and blondie and away we went.

Laura completed her four jump rounds and was quite happy with her own performance – it wasn't until the results were posted on the Zone 16 website that we were surprised to find out that she had finished third out of 39 competitors in D grade, so this was an extra boost to her confidence. There is a lot of rivalry amongst all clubs during the competition, but the friendship and encouragement given to competitors from the different clubs when a rider is doing the actual jumping is brilliant. If other sports could see how some of these kids compete they would learn a lot, yes they compete against each other for the prize, but congratulate or even ask how they are going or how did their horse feel over that jump.

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The Pony Club Family continued..

Whilst I was in Sydney, watching Matthew perform at the Sydney Opera House with his school, madam was psyching herself up for the Bungendore One Day Event. On arriving back from Sydney on the Sunday, and having to wait in Bungendore for our transport, we were greeted with a smile from the girls – Jeni because the day was over and Laura because Annie, even though having a below average dressage test and a shaky start to the showjumping, she completed the cross country phase clear with just a few time penalties.

Her excitement was evident when she informed me that Annie went through that watery thing that keeps scaring her. She didn't place but she could still smile and told me all the good and bad things that happened on the day.

So that's a bit about my pony club family. I wish to apologise for no Gibber Gabber for June 2010, but it appears I had promised Marion a story and like all parents things came up and I was slack and didn't send her anything. So sorry readers, I just hope the update of the Worden family events for the last few months was entertaining for you. Of course as I sign off, Laura has been training for mounted games and is looking forward to competing with her mates in the Wamboin Whips team. **GO WAMBOIN!!!**



Above: Laura & Annie

MY FIRST MOUNTED GAMES EXPERIENCE

By Emma Woodrow

Since this year was my first year of the mounted Games competition it was really fun and I enjoyed it a lot even though our team did not come first in our Division. Part of the reason why I did mounted games this year was to teach my horse Fudge and me the skills of mounted games.

Riding in the Wamboin Wallabies team, we came second place in Division 4 and I was so proud of myself and the team including the horses because our team hadn't trained together at all. Will was from another club and we didn't get to train with him either. Our first race was Postman's Chase on both days and on the first day before Postman's Chase I was really nervous that I was going to stuff up and I was shaking a lot but after doing the first race I had a lot of fun and tried to relax.

We were a bit unlucky in Spillers but that didn't matter that Will fell off, mistakes happen but for the finals in Spillers we went really well! Since I was the last person in Spillers I kept looking at Sammi in the Wranglers to see where she was up to in the middle of Spillers and as soon as I had put the last letter on, my horse Fudge went like a lightning bolt to the finish line.

I am really looking forward to next year's Mounted Games competition to see how we gohopefully we may get first place or move up a division. Thanks to all my team members – Andrea, Charlie, Will and Nicole and to their horses – Pog, Obie, Mickey and Breeze.

Your First One Day Event: Are You Ready?

In Pony Club One Day Eventing, the grades are designed to promote horse and rider education and good horsemanship. In the dressage phase for example, the judge will look for you to ride on a steady contact and allow your horse to work in his/her natural paces, rather than a resistant and artificial frame. In the cross-country phase of One Day Eventing, you'll need to be able to trot and canter in the open in two-point position and adjust your horse's pace while staying in control.

Evaluate your cross-country riding skills by asking yourself questions like these:

- Have I ridden my horse in the open?
- Can I trot and canter in a field in two-point position, change pace, and bring my horse back to the trot?
- Can my horse and I stay in balance on un-level terrain?
- Does my horse get very strong when we go from the woods to trails? If he does, can I bring him back?
- In the open, will my horse automatically zone in on a little log in the path and jump it the first time?
- How does my horse handle jumping strange things?

Experts recommend competing one level below the one you're schooling-for two reasons: First, you won't be as nervous, so you'll be better able to observe, learn from and enjoy the event. Second, you and your horse won't be over-faced. For instance, if the two of you can jump 70cm in the ring but he spooks at new things, you'll be more successful if your competition fences don't exceed 60cm. As a general guide in Pony Club, you normally event at a grade lower than you show jump i.e. graded B for show jumping, graded C for eventing.



What is Eventing?

Eventing is an Equestrian event which comprises dressage, cross-country and show jumping. This event has its roots as a comprehensive cavalry test requiring mastery of several types of riding. It has two main formats, the one day event (ODE) or horse trial, and the three-day event (3DE).

Dressage

The dressage phase (held first) comprises an exact sequence of movements ridden in an enclosed arena (20x60m). The test is judged by one or more judges who are looking for balance, rhythm and suppleness and most importantly, obedience of the horse and its harmony with the rider. The challenge is to demonstrate that a supremely fit horse, capable of completing the cross-country phase on time, also has the training to perform in a graceful, relaxed and precise manner.

Cross Country

The cross-country phase requires both horse and rider to be in excellent physical shape and to be brave and trusting of each other. The fences consist of very solidly built natural objects (logs, stone walls, etc.) as well as various obstacles such as water, ditches, drops and banks. Speed is a factor, with the rider required to cross the finish line within a certain time frame (optimum time). Crossing the finish line after the optimum time results in penalties and at lower levels, there is a penalty for riding too fast. Penalties are also incurred if the horse refuses to jump a fence or has a run out. Should the horse or rider fall there is automatic elimination. The penalties for disobediences on cross-country are weighted severely relative to the other phases of competition to emphasize the importance of courage, endurance and athleticism. Fitness is required as the time allowed will require a strong canter at the lower levels, all the way to a strong gallop at the higher events.

Show Jumping

Show jumping tests the technical jumping skills of the horse and rider, including suppleness, obedience, fitness and athleticism. In addition to normal jumping skills, Eventing show jumping tests the fitness and stamina of the horse and rider, generally being held after the cross-country phase in the higher grades.

THE Back Page

Wamboin Pony Club

Gibber Gabber

Ed: Marion Whalan
Email: whalan.smith@bigpond .com
Please send stories & photos
for future editions.



We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wamboin.pcansw.org.au

More great photos by Catherine.....



Above: Nicole and an excited Breeze making trouble for the Starter.



Above: Our claytons Wamboiner, Will Golding and his trusty pony Mickey