

Bacchus Marsh Pony Club

Newsletter February 2007

Welcome Back: A huge welcome back to all the BMPC families, hope we all have a great, safe and fun 2007 with our horses.

BMPC ODE: Sunday 18th March is our ODE, Grade 1-5 for PC riders and Grade 1-4 for Open riders. There will be plenty of work going on around the grounds to continue to upgrade the x country course and tidy up the rest of the grounds. All help would be greatly appreciated in the weeks leading up to the ODE and on the day to ensure everything runs smoothly.

A gentle reminder to all families that they are expected to help out on the day, even if your children are riding.

The ODE's we run continue to be our biggest fundraisers, usually bringing in over \$4000 towards new equipment for the club.

BMPC Working Bee's: Now as most families will be aware in an effort to get more work done around the PC grounds, to maintain a safer environment for all our riders to practice and compete. The BMPC committee has implemented a working bee levy. Commencing this year all families will be expected to complete 9 constructive hours helping at working bee's or pay \$200. The working bee's (dates as listed below) will be held from 9 – 12 each day, helpers will be provided with tea/ coffee, cordial and biscuits for morning tea. Every family has plenty of opportunity to wipe out the levy before fees are due in June. The club would much your help rather than your money.

Working Bee Dates 2007:

4th February – at PC rally

4th March – at PC rally

11th March – tidy up grounds and x/c for ODE

14th/15th March – (mid week) to help Ewan Kellet on X/C course

17th March – set up for ODE

1st April – at PC rally

6th May – at PC rally

mid May – date to be finalised

3rd June – at PC rally

mid June – date to be finalised

1st July – at PC rally

14th July – set up for ODE

5th August – at PC rally

11th August – set up for Show

If you want to work on rally days phone Tracey prior to the rally, to allow committee time to plan and get equipment.

Every Wednesday/Thursday between 10am-3pm until the ODE in March there is an opportunity to work your hours off. Please see De Davey, if you are interested in working these times to work your hours off.

In an effort to be as organized as possible there will be a running jobs list, some of which can be done at home. There will be a register that families will need to sign with the date and hours worked in.

BMPC AGM 2007: will be held at the BMPC clubrooms on March 29th from 7:30 pm, all members' welcome and new members for the committee are encouraged. Nomination forms for the committee and positions will be available from this rally and must be in to the secretary or posted to the BMPC PO BOX 710 Bacchus Marsh by the 15th March. All welcome – come along, even if you don't want to commit to the committee, its an opportunity to have an input into the running of the club.

No Water at Racecourse: A reminder to all BMPC members that water at the racecourse reserve continues to be limited; all horse washes are turned off as, with many outside taps. For this reason we are asking all BMPC members to bring along a water container in the float to water their horses on rally days and whenever they are coming out to the racecourse until further notice. (It may also be worth doing this at any competitions)

Good Luck: To Hannah Marnie, Emily Aitkenhead and Tabitha Whiting who next weekend will be competing at the Dressage and Show Jumping State Championships, Hannah will be part of the Grade 2 Dressage Team, Emily part of the C Grade SJ Team, and Tabitha part of the B Grade SJ Team. Good luck to all three riders. Also well done to Brianna Pacelli, Tayla Paterson and Brad Gebbie who all finished well in their events at the eliminations last December.

Well Done: To those BMPC riders that rode at the Summer Royal.

BMPC Grounds: A little reminder to riders to please ensure that our grounds are used responsibly, and anyone wanting to have private or paid lessons with an instructor using BMPC grounds needs to get these approved by the BMPC committee for insurance reasons.

Also the BMPC Cross Country Course is closed until further notice, this is for safety reasons, there are a number of projects underway on the cross country course, and many of the new jumps (especially higher grades) are not completely finished. And in places that old jumps have been removed there may be unfilled holes or rubbish still lying around, please for the safety of your horse and yourself stay off the course until works have been completed.

Unfortunately BMPC riders will not have the opportunity to practice on the Cross Country course prior to the ODE, as work still needs to be completed and safety checks carried out. The course officially closes on the 25th February.

Event Entries: All riders please put entries in with Katrina at rally days, and provide her with an email address to send out times or call her Thursday prior to events. Riders please note that event entries should be put in at rally days to ensure all BMPC

entries arrive to other clubs together; this makes it easier for clubs to organize their events.

Anthea Lessons: The dates for 2007 are as follows;

Feb 24th, March 24th, April 21st, May 5th, June 2nd, July 30th, August 11th, September 22nd, October 6th, and November 3rd, all riders wishing to take part in dressage and jumping lessons will need to put down their names and pay Katrina at each rally prior to lessons. \$30 per rider for a 1 hour dressage and a 1 hour SJ lesson. Any riders who pull out will not receive money back unless they let Lotta or Peter know with enough time to fill the position. Please also give Katrina a contact number or email address to get times of lessons prior to the day.

C Certificate: All riders over 12 years old that have obtained their D certificate are able to sit their C certificate. Riders are tested by examiners from the zone, there is a \$25 fee per rider. Riders need to carry out a series of riding activities, including jumping and a short written exam. Riders wanting to do their C certificates please ensure you have put your name down with Peter and pay this rally, all riders and a parent need to sign the registration form. Dates for testing are set by the zone and dates have not yet been finalized, possible dates are the 17th or 24th of March, and riders will be notified as soon as the club is notified.

Dressage Judges: Barwon Zone wants to run some work shops for older riders or parents who would like to learn how to judge dressage, if you are interested, please put your name down with Peter.

Reminders from Barwon Zone:

- at ODE's the 4th refusal on the entire X country course means elimination
- if riders are asked to leave the x country course the must do so mounted at a walk and stay out of the way of other riders still competing
- bad behavior will not be tolerated and may result in a 3 month competition ban (such behaviour includes – abuse of other riders, judges, helper's and horses, excessive use of the whip after a warning, not listening to requests of judges)
- ODE's are not training days, riders and/ or horses must be graded and up to competing.

New Members: All families are reminded that if you know someone who wants to join please let them know to contact the Peter Bailey, 5367 5644 or Tracey Paterson, 5367 5539 prior to the committee meeting/rally.

Summer Uniform: Riders are reminded that in hot weather they are not required to wear their jumpers, however when they take jumpers off they need to also take ties off so they don't flap around.

At competitions however riders are required to wear full uniform during events until the organizing committee makes a decision/announcement that jumpers can be removed.

Thank you: A huge thank you to Bob Closter for all his hours spent out at the racecourse over the summer months cleaning up our sand arena's and grounds they look great! Thanks Bob.

PCAV through the drought: PCAV wants all clubs to pay attention to members horses over the coming months, horses in poor condition will not be tolerated at rally days or competitions. If you are having troubles feeding him **do not** expect him to perform at competitions or overwork him at home.

Riders are reminded to be organized and keep their horses in the best possible condition, especially as feed will become very expensive and harder to come by:

- make sure they have enough fresh water
- they have plenty of shade/ shelter in their paddock
- they have enough to eat – remember the more you work you horse the more he'll need to eat to maintain good condition, so if you are having trouble feeding him, work him less
- remember it is easier to keep condition on a horse than to put it on, so make sure your horse is in good health and condition now
- arrange plenty of feed now** (hay), to ensure you don't get stuck in a few months

Also riders are reminded to watch what they feed their horse:

- bread and wheat are not good for horses and should not be used as alternative foods
- cereal hay will be cheaper due to poor cropping conditions but is not always suitable to feed to horses, try to stick to oaten or grass hay, or seek the advice of your local vet/ feed store
- be careful when changing your horses feed, do it slowly and ensure the feeds chosen are suitable for your horse and the type of work you want them to do.

Games and Flat Teams Eliminations: April 29th at Rokewood PC.

Games: Any riders interested please put your names down with Peter, practice times to be finalized so please let us know if sat or sun suits better. All riders interested will need to make a commitment to attend practices, this enables horses/riders to get used to working together as a team.

Flat: Any riders interested in taking part in the flat teams please put your names down with Peter, all names will be taken as individuals and the committee will finalize the teams. We are also after a parent interested in helping run the flat practices.

Coming Events:

11th Feb – Kingston PC CT & Dressage Day
11th Feb – Barwon Valley PC Dressage & SJ Day
11th Feb – Beveridge Open Horse Show
11th Feb – Colac Summer Show
18th Feb – Lochard PC ODE
25th Feb – Glenlyon PC ODE
25th Feb – Smythesdale PC Games Day
18th March – Bacchus Marsh PC ODE
29th April – Barwon Zone Games & Flat Teams Eliminations
5th & 6th May – State Horse Trials at Thurgoona (Grade 1 & 2 riders)

BMPC Sponsorship: A huge thank you to all the local businesses that have supported BMPC, please support them in return. See list of sponsors at end of newsletter. Also a huge thank you to Bacchus Marsh Foodworks who have committed to ongoing sponsorship for '2007.'

BMPC 2006 **Sponsor List**

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