

Waitara Pony Club

2011 / 2012

‘The Pony Club Way’



***YOUR ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO BEING A WAITARA PONY CLUB MEMBER, FAMILY
AND SUPPORTER***

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MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT 2011/12

We are a branch of the North Taranaki Pony Club, and our national body is the New Zealand Pony Clubs Association (NZPCA).

Our aim is to provide instruction in pony/horse riding and management for members up to 25 years of age. This is done through a range of forums including rallies, camps and treks to ensure all members receive instruction in riding skills (e.g. games, dressage, show jumping, cross-country riding) and pony or horse care.

Opportunities are available to work towards certificates of achievement, beginning with the D certificate and working through D+, C, C+ and B to H and A certificates. The O certificate, at bronze, silver or gold level may be taken after you have gained your D certificate.

As you can appreciate, these opportunities rely on the availability of people to coach our riders. Our coaches are all volunteers, with a background of experience in riding and horse management themselves and some are undertaking the Equestrian Coaches Training Program. Without their donation of time, energy and experience, Pony Club could not function, so we are very grateful to them and encourage all members to recognise this and thank them at the end of each rally. If you have any questions please talk to either the head coaches or your own coach.

Our Branch also holds competition events for our own members during the season (known as “closed events”), which determine the winners of our dressage, show jumping and cross-country cups. ‘Points Cups’ are also awarded to those who’ve gained the most points for presentation of the rider, horse and tack throughout the season. The ‘Most Improved Rider Cups’ reflect the progress made by riders in each group. So you can see there is plenty to do at Pony Club and we all like to enjoy ourselves while we’re there.

Members and/or their parents are welcomed and encouraged to attend our monthly meetings. These are held mostly on the 2nd Monday of each month and are advertised in your newsletter. The more support our club is given, the stronger it will be in order to provide for its members.

Please take the time to read and familiarise yourself with our ‘Pony Club Rules’ on page 9. These are to ensure the safety of yourself, your child and their pony. Please also take note of the new procedure for rallies this year. Your family is rostered on to help at rallies, so please make yourself available.

For this coming season it is my hope that we will help and encourage our riders to become better horsewoman/horsemen. I want all riders to gain confidence in their skills and their mount and for our riders to be competitive in our own club, regionally and nationally.

I will at some stage be calling on all members of our club to help out. There are some changes occurring this year from our grounds perspective with the NPDC and a slight shift in the way we run and organise rallies. To be successful in allowing changes to occur that is best for all of our members I will need the support from all.

INSTRUCTOR CONTACTS**2011/12**

	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Email</i>
Rebecca Dearden	754 3015	021 151 6981	rebecca.dearden@powerco.co.nz
Pip Bint	756 8877	027 697 0716	pip.bint@halliburton.com
Helen Bingham	754 6385	021 266 3934	helen.bingham@tdhb.org.nz
Julia Bolton	759 1003	027 292 3003	natbolt@xtra.co.nz
Pat Perkins	752 0633	021 137 2050	pat.perkins@tdhb.org.nz
Necia Prior	756 8752	021 267 7482	priorfarm@clear.net.net
Mandy Mahony	756 6577	027 241 0009	mandymahony03@hotmail.com
Suzy Bolton	752 2835	0276694955	smbolton@xtra.co.nz

CONTACTS**2011/12**

	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Day</i>	<i>Email</i>
President			
Mandy Mahony	756 6577	027 241 0009	mandymahony03@hotmail.com
Secretary			
Michele Davy-Raine	755 1027	0273 935 116	gregraine@xtra.co.nz
Treasurer			
Dallis Barrett	755 1743	0274 206 961	dallis@ihug.co.nz
Grounds Person			
Keith Laurence		021 187 6753	
Head Instructor & Certificate Coordinator			
Rebecca Dearden	754 3015	021 151 6981	Rebecca.Dearden@powerco.co.nz
Grazing Managers			
Neisha Steiller		027 782 2276	
Newsletter			
Sonya William	7547577	027 4284430	boowilliams646@hotmail.com
Grounds Bookings (Key)			
Annette Fumage	754 4194		

Rally Notification and cancellation

In order to make it easier on everyone we are trialling the use of "teamer.net" this season as a way of keeping track of who is attending rallies and to text everyone if a ridden rally is changed to HM.

All families with active riding members (Pony Club aged) and our instructors have been added to our teamer contacts list. You will have received a text, email or both inviting you to join teamer. You can do so by going online but you will still receive all text notifications even if you do not.

A text will come from teamer to all families prior to each rally. It asks for a Y or N response to confirm attendance. The programme is not set up to accept more than just a Y or N reply. Please reply to Rebecca directly if you need to send a more detailed response. If you reply to teamer with more than just Y or N it will not record your response at all.

The teamer number is a NZ Vodafone number and normal NZ texts costs apply. Depending on your own cell phone set up it will be cost between 0 and 20c to reply.

When a ridden rally changes to HM we will still email, update the website and get it on the radio but you will now also get a cancellation text of the rally. When this happens please interpret it to mean there will be unmounted HM starting at 9.30am. No decision on whether or not a rally will go ahead is made before 7.30am. Please wait for notification rather than contacting a committee member prior to this time.

WAITARA PONY CLUB UNIFORM

Waitara Pony Club Uniform consists of:

- White shirt - *whether white shirt or jersey [below] is worn, it **must** have long sleeves*
- Bottle green jersey or sweatshirt
- Bottle green tie
- North Taranaki Pony Club Badge (for tie) – *badges may be ordered from the secretary*
- Bottle green vest
- Cream, fawn, black jodhpur for rally's but light coloured jodhpurs for competitions
- NZPCA approved helmet - *helmets must display one of the following safety standard stickers – AS/NZ 3838, BSEN1384, ASTM F1163, PAS015, EN1384*
- Riding boots – *all boots must have a heel with minimum tread on sole. Generally, riders on ponies wear short length jodhpur boots and riders on horses wear long riding boots. Chappettes are also acceptable at rallies.*

For horse mastership rallies the above uniform maybe worn or the new WPC sweatshirts/Polos with either black or navy track pants/shorts

Second hand gear sales may occur at Pony Club events.

NOTE: Uniforms for competitions vary from the list above. Please visit www.nzpca.org for New Zealand Pony Clubs Association rules on uniforms at competitions.

WAITARA PONY CLUB RULES

- When approaching Waitara Pony Club, please park in the paddock on the left. Enter the parking paddock

through the first gate; on the left, just before the double road gates into pony club.

- The double road gates **must** be kept shut. As noted above, these gates will not be used by floats and trucks as they will go through the first gate into the parking paddock.
- You **must** also shut the gate into **all** paddocks at **all** times.
- Please park in a straight line with enough room between vehicles for a pony to be tied on your float and the one next to you.
- Yards are available on a first in first served basis. However, the moment you take your pony out of the yard, it is open to anyone and you must remove your equipment from the yard when you leave for the rally.
- If you use a yard, you **must** remove all manure and hay (or any rubbish) from the yards and put it into the end bins provided. If you do not, next time you use a yard, you will be asked to remove your pony.
- **Never** tie your pony to a float that is not attached correctly to a vehicle. And your pony **must always** be to a piece of baling twine first with a 'quick release' knot wherever it is tied.
- **Never** tie your pony up with anything other than a halter and lead rope. The halter **must** be done up correctly (**not** hanging around the pony's neck).
- When you leave your float (or tie-up area), please leave it tidy.
- When you pack up and get ready to leave, you **must** pick up all manure and hay (or any other rubbish) and put it into the bins provided.
- Ponies and horses under 5 years of age are **not** to be ridden at Waitara Pony Club rallies. The **only** exception to this rule is if you have permission from either of the Head Coaches upon written request.
- However, if your pony or horse is over the age of 5 years and it is causing problems or disruption to other riders at the rally, the rider and caregiver will be asked to remove the horse from the rally situation.
- You are the **only** person to ride your pony during a rally; siblings, friends or caregivers must not ride your pony. Those with C+ certificate or higher who have the coaches permission are the **only** exception to this rule.
- No adults are to ride horses during rallies. You must wait until the rally is over. The **only** exceptions are coaches who have permission from the Head Coaches.
- You **must** contact your coaches if you are **unable** to attend the coming rally.
- A regulation helmet (see Waitara Uniform page 4 for accepted helmet codes), correctly fitted and correctly fastened helmet, **must** be worn whilst riding.
- Ponies are to be ridden at **walk or trot only** unless directed otherwise by an instructor. You may be asked to dismount if you constantly disobey this rule.
- Boots with a heel and minimal tread **must** be worn when riding. There **must** also be two finger widths between the boot and stirrup iron. If at inspection we find the iron too small – you may be asked to change these or ride without irons for the rally.
- **Do not** bring your pony onto the concrete areas or paths around clubrooms.
- **Please** wear your helmet (correctly fastened) when grooming, tacking-up, unloading and loading your pony.
- Riders **14 years of age and under must** have a caregiver present with them during rallies.
- Riders **6 years of age and under, must** be on a lead rein at all times (unless directed otherwise by a

coach on consultation with caregivers).

- Members must be **5 years old** to ride at Waitara Pony Club.
- Other children (non riding) **must** be supervised by caregivers and kept away from all ponies during the rally.
- Lamé ponies **will not** be ridden at pony club.
- A minimum of 5 rallies with 3 of those to be ridden on the mount you wish to compete on within the past 12 months must be attended in order to be eligible for Branch, Club or Area (that is Waitara Pony Club, North Taranaki Pony Club or Taranaki Area Pony Club) teams and for award of Waitara Pony Club cups at end of season prize-giving. You may trial two mounts but must have completed the 3 ridden rallies on both mounts.
- Riders, caregivers and helpers **must** listen to and co-operate with coaches. However, please do not interrupt while lessons are in progress. You may discuss questions with the coach at the end of the rally.
- Any **cruelty or mistreatment** to horses on the Pony Club grounds will not be tolerated. All instances should be reported to the committee. The committee will decide on the appropriate disciplinary action.
- Any **offensive behaviour** by any person at any time on the Pony Club grounds will not be tolerated and will be brought before the committee to decide on the appropriate disciplinary action.
- Members may set up and use **jumping and games equipment** outside of rallies. All equipment **must be put back** when finished, either by person who set it up or last person using it
- Additional rules applying to grazers will be found in their **Grazing Contract**
- **Overnight grazing/ yards** are available at a cost of \$5.00 per night. The grounds person must be advised of any horses staying overnight and the fee is payable to the Treasurer.

WAITARA PONY CLUB COMMITMENT 2011/12

Waitara Pony Club can only function efficiently if it has the full support of all members and parents. The Club offers many opportunities for riders to develop their riding abilities, including; coaching, separate theory sessions and Club representation at local and national events. Maintenance and upgrade of the grounds and equipment is also part of being a member of the Club. As with many clubs these opportunities are supported by a small number of the parents from the club, and as everyone leads busy lives these days it is becoming harder to get parental support.

The Club needs members (including senior riders) on its Committee, and help with Club and North Taranaki/Taranaki Pony Club events. It also regularly runs working bees to keep the grounds and equipment maintained and upgraded. We are lucky in our club to have support from parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts of our riders, but to keep up with all the jobs in the club, stop the work falling on just a few people, and lessen the need to fundraise to give our riders the best opportunities, the Club has imposed a \$250 levy, with an out option.

This means that each family must commit themselves to assist at a minimum of 3 major events, 2 rallies and 1 club working bee that the club organises or participates in. This includes helping out at the Pony Club rallies; and taking on jobs (either to set up the day before or at the event) at the Open and Closed Gymkhanas, One Day events, and the Area activities we are assigned, (consisting of any of Games, SJ, SH, Dressage or ODE); and taking on jobs at other fund raising events that may be organised. Once a family has completed the 5 events in total they then do not become liable for the \$250.00 levy. Of course there is no upper limit on the jobs a family can do!

This does not mean that parents are the only family members involved – for instance, the help of senior riders or riders not participating at events is welcomed at the events organised. Younger riders can be of assistance also by acting as runners and so forth. Some riders have found it beneficial to assist at Area events to get an understanding of how things work before they go out themselves and participate.

Upcoming events will be notified via e-mail. It is your responsibility to contact a committee member and offer your assistance. It may also be necessary to make phone calls to members. People will have plenty of opportunities to assist at the club and it only takes a phone call to or an approach to a committee member to discuss when you can provide some assistance.

It will be noted who attends what events and at the end of the working season families will be invoiced if they have not helped as set out above. They will need to pay the invoice prior to the next season or risk their membership the following year.

WAITARA PONY CLUB CALENDAR

2011			2012		
August			January		
Sun	7 th	Inglewood Progressive S/J Day	Mon	2 nd	Inglewood Showcross
Sat	13 th	WPC Registration Day	Wed	4 th	Equest Teams Training
Sun	14 th	Inglewood Progressive S/J Day	Thur	5 th	Equest Teams Training
Sat	20 th	Winter SH Series - Inglewood	Fri	6 th	Equest Teams Training
Sat	27 th	WPC Rally 1	Sat	7 th	Eltham Mini ODE
Sat	28 th	WPC Winter Woolies and NTPC SH Trials	Wed	11 th	WPC Rally 9 - Twilight
September			Thur	12 th	Twilight Ribbon Day – Inglewood
Sat	3 rd	SH Clinic/Training – Hawera	Sat	14 th	Area Games
Sun	4 th	Winter SH Series Final – Hawera	Sun	15 th	Nervous Nellie Day – Eltham
Sat	10 th	WPC Rally 2	Mon	16 th	NI SJ Champs – Cambridge
Sat	17 th	Coaching Games Coaches – WPC	Tues	17 th	NI SJ Champs – Cambridge
Sun	18 th	S/J Group training day – Hawera	Sat	21 st	NZPCA Dressage Champs
Sat	24 th	WPC rally 3 – CAMP	Sun	22 nd	NZPCA Dressage Champs WPC Trek – Bolton's farm - TBC
Sun	25 th	WPC Rally 4 – CAMP S/J group Training day - Hawera	Wed	25 th	WPC Rally 10 - Twilight
October			Sat	28 th	Area SJ – WPC
Sat	1 st	Patea Ribbon Day – Hawera	Sun	29 th	NPPC Ribbon Day
Sun	2 nd	WPC Rally 5	February		
Sat	8 th	C Coaches course	Wed	1 st	WPC rally 11 - Twilight
Sun	9 th	C Coaches course	Sat	4 th	Carlyle ODE
Fri	14 th	NI NZPCA SH Champs - Foxton	Mon	6 th	Hawera Mini show/gymkhana
Sat	15 th	NI NZPCA SH Champs – Foxton Low Level ODE - Inglewood	Sat	11 th	WPC rally 12 Zone Games Hawera ODE
Sun	16 th	NI NZPCA SH Champs – Foxton Dressage Taranaki - WPC	Sun	12 th	Zone Games Hawera ODE
Tues	18 th	TAPC Dressage Course	Wed	22 nd	WPC Rally 13 – Twilight
Wed	19 th	TAPC Dressage Course	Sat	25 th	NTPC ODE
Sat	22 nd	Central Makahu Sports Day	March		
Sun	23 rd	WPC Rally 6	Sat	3 rd	WPC Rally 14
Mon	24 th	Opunake Mini Show	Sat	10 th	Opunake ODE
Sat	29 th	Oakura Jumping Day - WPC	Tues	13 th	HOY
Sun	30 th	Waverley Ribbon Day	Wed	14 th	HOY
November			Thur	15 th	HOY
Sat	5 th	WPC Closed Dressage	Fri	16 th	HOY
Sat	12 th	WPC Rally 7 – SJ/Games rally & closed games	Sat	17 th	HOY WPC Rally 15
Sun	13 th	Eltham Mini Gymkhana	Sun	18 th	HOY
Fri	18 th	Egmont A&P	Sat	24 th	Area Trials – Inglewood ODE
Sat	19 th	Egmont A&P	Sun	25 th	Eltham Junior games
Sun	20 th	Egmont A&P	Sat	31 st	Timberlands
Fri	25 th	Stratford A&P	April		
Sat	26 th	Stratford A&P	Fri	6 th	WPC rally 16
Sun	27 th	Stratford A&P	Sat	7 th	Mini Teams Training - WPC
December			Thur	12 th	NZPCA HT Champs - Oamaru
Sat	3 rd	Area Dressage - WPC	Fri	13 th	NZPCA HT Champs - Oamaru
Sun	4 th	WPC Closed ODE	Sat	14 th	NZPCA HT Champs - Oamaru
Sat	10 th	Okato Sports Day	Sun	15 th	NZPCA HT Champs - Oamaru
Sun	11 th	NPPC Jumping Extravaganza	Sat	21 st	NI Games - Taranaki
Sat	17 th	WPC Rally 8 – XMAS break up	Sun	22 nd	NI Games - Taranaki
Sun	18 th	WPC training ODE	Sat	28 th	Dressage Day – Eltham
Sat	31 st	WPC Games and SJ day	Sun	29 th	WPC Closed Gymkhana & Prizegiving

WAITARA PONY CLUB CALENDAR cont'd

Notes:

- **WARNING!** Some of the dates on this calendar could change – we don't always know all that's on offer at this stage, so this is a guide only. The calendar will be updated with every newsletter, so always consult the most recent version for dates. Closed events are open to Waitara Pony Club members only. All riders are expected to participate, as it gives an opportunity to put into practice what you have been learning at rallies. There is no entry fee for these events. These events decide winners of some of the cups awarded at the end-of-season prize-giving.
- Open events are for all competitors; from within and outside our club. These are our fundraising opportunities, and we ask all parents must make themselves available on these days to help with the running of these events. Please see the Pony Club Commitment on page 9 for the rules relating to helping out. There is an entry fee for these events.
- Area events are trials to select Taranaki representatives for zone or national events e.g. Dressage, Games, Eventing, Show-jumping.
- If you want programs for any of the open events listed, it is your responsibility to contact the secretary Michelle Davy-Raine. We will pass on those that are sent to us, but you must take the initiative if you want to attend an event.

Acronyms (explained)			
WPC	Waitara Pony Club	NP	New Plymouth
NPPC	New Plymouth Pony Club	Hawera	A&P Showgrounds, Hawera
NI	North Island	SH	Show Hunter
HM	Horse mastership	TBA	To be advised
ODE	One Day Event	SJ	Show-jumping

RALLY TIMETABLE

TIME (morning)	TIME (Twilight)	ACTIVITY
8.30am	4.30pm	Waitara Pony Club gates open
8.30am – 9.00am	4.30-5.00pm	Arrival
9.00am	5.00pm	Rostered family members to meet Rally Organiser (and rostered coach) at club rooms to help put out gear
9.20am	5.20 pm	Riders and ponies must make their way to club rooms for notices and inspection
9.30am	5.30pm	President's Address and notices
9.40am	5.30pm	Inspection
10.00am	5.40pm	Groups to first activities
10.30am	6.00pm	Bell rung, groups change to next activity
11.00am	6.20pm	Bell rung, groups change to next activity
11.30am	6.40pm	Bell rung, groups change to next activity
12.00pm	7.00pm	Rally ends Rally Organiser gets certificate cards to coaches to be signed Drinks available at clubrooms for riders Rostered families pack away rally and games gear Everyone goes home

PLEASE NOTE:

The above timetable may at times be subject to change by coaches. But unless advised by either Head Coach or your group coach, the above format is always applicable

RALLY ORGANISER SCHEDULE

- A different person will be rostered on as 'Rally Organiser' at each rally (page 13).
- If you are unable to make your allocated day, it is your responsibility to organise another person to do the job for you.
- On page 18 is a checklist for you to follow as 'Rally Organiser'.
- There will also be two families (page 13) rostered on at each rally to help the 'Rally Organiser' set up and pack away rally gear.
- A coach will also be rostered on as an 'overseer' only. The rostered coach will be available to answer any questions or queries about the rally set up.

PLEASE NOTE

Please try to commit yourself to this job, as without your help, pony club rallies will not run smoothly or enjoyably. If you are unsure about your role or what is required of you, please contact a Head Coach.

ROSTERED FAMILIES

- Each Waitara Pony Club family will be assigned a date to help the Rally Organiser set-up and pack away rally gear.
- Please consult the calendar on page 13 to see when your family is rostered on to help.
- Each of the two rostered families must provide one person each to be available at the Waitara Pony Club clubrooms at 9.00am for morning rallies and 12 midday for the afternoon rallies.
- The two people will help the Rally Organiser set up for the day. The Rally Organiser will direct the two helpers of whom will also be required to pack away gear at the end of the rally too.
- Exceptions: It is understood that some families find it hard to help set up for rallies because they come to pony club as a single caregiver and have children who cannot mind their ponies on their own. One option is to find an adult to accompany you to look after the child[ren] or who can help set up the equipment in your absence. Another option is to get your child and pony ready and then go and help the Rally Organiser. If neither of these options are possible and you cannot help set up for the rally, you will still however be required to help pack away rally gear once you have organised your child and pony at the end of the rally.

RALLY ORGANISERS & ROSTERED FAMILIES 2011/12

RALLY	DATE	RALLY ORGANISER	ROSTERED FAMILY 1	ROSTERED FAMILY 2
1	Sat 27 Aug	Suzy Bolton	Mandy Mahony	Cheswass
2	Sat 10 Sept	Angela Turner	Laurence	Kay-White
3	Sat 24 Sept CAMP	Davy	Helms	Moratti
4	Sun 25 Sept CAMP	Moratti	Julie Adlam	Rivers
5	Sun 02 Oct	Barrett	Prior	Newton
6	Sun 23 Oct	Fleming	Jill Adlam	Rivers
	Sat 05 Nov Closed Dressage	All members	All members	All members
7	Sat 12 Dec SJ Rally & closed games	Pemberton	Taylor (Ben)	langridge
	Sun 04 Dec Closed ODE	All members	All members	All members
8	Sat 17 Dec	Trott	Newton	Hales
9	Wed 11 Jan - Twilight	Simpson	Turner	Woodwards
	Trek @Boltons TBC			
10	Wed 25 Jan - Twilight	Cheswass	Kay-White	Jill Adlam
11	Wed 01 Feb - Twilight	Jill Adlam	Hales	Cribb
12	Sat 11 Feb	Butler	Julia Bolton	Helms
13	Wed 22 Feb - Twilight	Mahony	Julie Adlam	Bolton Julia
14	Sat 03 Mar	Suzy Bolton	Crofskey	Taylor (Ben)
15	Sat 17 Mar	Davy	langridge	Butler
16	Fri 06 Apr	Barrett	Simpson	Fleming

If you know you will not be at the rally on the day you are scheduled to help then it is your responsibility to arrange a replacement. Please notify Rebecca as to who will be replacing you as she will be monitoring who is helping so to avoid having the same people doing the job all the time.

If you are finding it difficult to help set up for rallies because of reasons such as your child being too young to be left alone then please see a head instructor to sort out another job for you to do and you may be exempt from being a Rally Organiser or Rostered Family.

RALLY ORGANISER CHECKLIST

This schedule is also posted in the clubrooms for ease of adherence

1. Check the Pony Club Calendar (page 13) to see which date you are rostered on as Rally Organiser.
2. If you cannot be Rally Organiser on your rostered day, please organise to swap your day with someone else.
3. Check your emails as you will be send the 'Coaches Rally Timetable' to see which activities the coaches are rostered on for the day.
4. Contact the two coaches who are at SJ first up on today's rally. They will tell you what SJ exercises they want.
5. Contact Pat Perkins; check what games equipment will be required.
6. Arrive at Waitara Pony Club grounds at 8.30am for morning rallies and 11.30am for afternoon rallies; this is the time that we have publicly announced that gates will be open.
7. Unlock gates into the parking paddock (both gates) and rally paddock. If you do not have a key, please contact Annette Furmage.
8. Unlock the clubrooms and storage area.
9. Turn on the Zip unit in kitchen.
10. Turn off electric fence unit.
11. Ensure you are at the clubrooms at 8.55am for morning rallies and 11.55am for afternoon rallies.
12. Your helpers (rostered families) will meet you at the clubrooms at 9.00am or 12.00 midday, at which point you can start setting gear out.
13. Set up the two SJ exercises at each end of the allocated SJ area
14. Ensure there are two dressage arenas out.
15. Ensure that the games equipment only is over the 'games area'
16. Take down electric fence around water jump
17. Ring bell at 9.20am / 12.20pm to allow riders and parents to make their way to the club rooms.
18. Hand out inspection boards to coaches at 9.25-9.30am / 12.25-12.30pm.
19. Collect inspection sheets from coaches after inspection and place in Points Box.
20. Ring the bell every 30 minutes (as per Rally Timetable above, page 11) – unless advised otherwise by Head Coach.
21. At 12.00pm / 3.00pm, make sure the certificate cards are available to coaches to sign.
22. Prepare drinks for riders and ensure cups are washed, dried and put away after use.
23. Turn off the Zip unit. Put kitchen rubbish into wheelie bin in open bay area.
24. Run sweeper over carpet if needed.
25. Ensure equipment is put away in the right places.
26. Turn the electric fence unit back on (after fence is erected around water jump).
27. Ensure shutters, windows, doors of clubrooms and gates of storage area are locked at the end of the rally.
28. Check gate to rally paddock and dressage area is locked before leaving.

PONY CLUB GROUPS

When you come to pony club, your child will be allocated to a particular group. You may then wonder 'how on earth did my child end up in that group!' Below are some points that the Head Coaches will take into consideration (with further advice from the other coaches), when deciding which group your child / pony combination should be in.

Please also remember that rallies are group activities and your child cannot be singled out for an individual lesson. Please respect coaches' decisions and remember that they are not professionals and are volunteers.

Age of rider

Although pony club has a structure and protocols, it is essentially about having fun while learning. Having children in a group with others of similar age is really important; so that they are among their peers.

Riders Ability

For obvious reasons, the ability of the rider will be a major factor determining which group a child will be in at pony club. Certificate levels are an easy way to initially determine a riders' ability.

Horse or Pony Ability

Of course ponies' abilities vary as much as riders' abilities do. Age, condition (thin or fat), previous training and current riders ability are all factors which will affect the ability and skill level of ponies and therefore the work that can be achieved.

Riders Goals

Probably the majority of riders do not want to be future New Zealand Olympians, but just want to come to pony club, learn about their ponies and improve their riding skills. Therefore the riders' personal aspirations will also affect what they want to achieve at pony club and therefore can influence a decision as to which group they belong to. Many riders just want to have fun and ride with like minded people.

PONY CLUB PARENTS

Yes, there is a considerable time commitment required of you if your child goes to pony club. If your child goes to pony club, you have to understand that your role extends beyond travelling your child and pony to and from pony club. Pony club is a voluntary operation and so everyone must pitch in to ensure its continued success. Parents must also please remember that our coaches are not professionals and are there simply of their own good will and their desire to spread their own knowledge and passion for horses. However, pony club is a great way for you and your child to meet new friends and learn new skills, all of which are very satisfying. It is a healthy outdoor activity for both riders and parents.

Good friends are made at pony club and there's lots of fun to be had.

CERTIFICATES

Pony Club certificates are an important part of pony club. Although working toward certificates may initially seem tedious, boring and a lot of hard work, certificates provide a skill set which the rider can work towards at their own pace whilst measuring their progress against the national NZPCA syllabus. They also give coaches a good guideline for what to do in rallies so that there is a steady progression over the season. Also, for those members who do not wish to pursue an active competitive riding nature outside of rallies, certificates still give members a fantastic goal to aim towards. Having a goal will ensure that riding skills and horse-mastership skills will progress at an impressive and rewarding rate.

However, certificates are not compulsory, but as mentioned above, they are encouraged as an important aspect of pony club. Pony club certificates are also recognised not only nationally, but internationally. There will be five certificate levels worked on over the pony club season at Waitara Pony Club; D, D+, C, C+ & B.

Each member will be issued with a card according to their certificate level i.e. if you do not have your 'D Certificate', you will be issued with a 'D card' as it is your 'D Certificate' which you are working towards. At the end of each rally, coaches will sign the cards according to the activities achieved by each rider. There will also be a few horse-mastership (HM) sessions run throughout the season. These HM sessions are unmounted and are to cover areas that do not involve riding and are therefore not covered/discussed at normal working rallies i.e. pony care and health. These HM sessions will be counted as rallies.

As these HM sessions are counted as rallies, you will be 'marked' by your coach on your attendance and your appearance; so you will get more points if you wear your uniform. Everyone will get the same opportunity to make up points which go towards winning the 'Points Cup' at the end of the season.

COACHES INSPECTION

At 9.40am / 12.40pm on the day of a rally all horses, ponies and riders will be inspected by the group coach. Even if you have come to pony club without your pony, your attendance will be noted and you can still be inspected on your own personal presentation i.e. uniform. Below is an example of the coach's inspection form and what they will be looking for.

Although it may seem a tedious and boring time of pony club, inspections are very important for the following reasons:

Safety

The number one reason for an inspection is to ensure that you and your pony are safe! Your ponies tack and your attire is fundamental to ensuring that you are in fact safe. Safety hazards such as rotting stitching and non-regulation helmets (see Waitara Pony Club Uniform page 6) must be routinely checked for and the pony club inspection is an ideal time to do this.

Points Cups

Each ridden rally can provide a maximum of 30 points. Un-mounted rallies (certificate horse mastership HM sessions) will also be assessed on attendance and uniform. At the end of the season all points will be added up to see who out of each group accumulated the most points. There is a cup to be won for each group. A member must also attend a minimum of five (5) rallies to be eligible for a cup. There is a new section added to the inspection form this year for 'overall turn-out'. Coaches will look at the overall presentation created and decide on a mark out of five.

Animal Welfare

Another essential thing that an inspection provides is for the horse or pony's sake. Having an experienced eye cast over your pony may pick up some interesting or peculiar things that you may not know. For example, your coach will be able to tell you that your pony's feet are due to be checked by the farrier or that your saddle is sitting too low on your pony's wither and is causing him discomfort.

Learning

Inspection time is a great time to learn about ponies and their tack. Members of the group may all have different gear, which can be the focus of interesting discussion for the whole group.

COACHES INSPECTION LIST

Tack	Clean	
	Supple	
	Clean bit	
	Stitching	
	Bridle fitting	
	Saddle fitting (Inc boots etc)	
	Stirrup size	
	Bars down	
Sub		/ 8
Pony	Clean (not shampooed)	
	Eyes	
	Nose	
	Mouth	
	Dock	
	Oiled hooves	
	Feet condition	
	Hooves picked	
	Condition	
Sub		/ 9
Rider	Helmet	
	Tie	
	Badge	
	Jersey	
	Jodhpurs	
	Footwear	
	Jewellery	
	Hair	
Sub		/ 8
Overall Turn-out		/ 5
TOTAL		/ 30