



K & C* Newsletter

The Summer Riding Season is here!

It is time for all our older riders to get back into doing K Options and improving riding skills for their C*.

Some Options to start working for include Showing, Show Jumping and Dressage.

There are helps of local shows coming up. Croydon Show, an Yarra Glen on Sunday 31st October and Lilydale show on 20th & 21st November.

The Melbourne Summer Royal is at the beginning of January. Entries close on Monday 22nd October, and must be signed by the Club DC. There is also the Special Pony Club Combination. More notes on this event on page 2.

I will include some general notes on Showing in this Newsletter, so that you can start getting organized.

There are heaps of show jumping Competitions coming up, including open events at Lilydale Show.

If you are competing at the Zone Qualifiers, make sure that you take along your K Options Show Jumping form and have it signed by the Jump Judge, or a Zone Official on the day. The Accumulator Round is a new event and I will explain the rules on page ?

For the Dressage option you need to have ridden five level 2 or level 1 dressage tests.

If you are level 3 at pre-

sent, you may like to ride an Open Level 2 test at Ringwood Pony Club's Dressage Day. In the Open Events, you do not have to be graded to ride the Dressage Tests, however if the organizing committee see any unsafe horse and rider combinations at the event, they will be asked to dismount and no monies will be refunded. If you are a Level 3 rider and do really well at a Level 2 Open Competition, then perhaps it is time that you went up a level.

Those competing at the Zone Qualifier at Level 1 or 2, please save your dressage tests, to present for your K Option.



Those wanting to show may wish to make a new fancy brow band. Come to the Workshop on Tuesday 9th November at Ringwood Pony Club.



Make sure that your horse's feet are in top condition, to cover the distance.

Let's start working on the 40K ride

All K Certificate Candidates will need to do a 40K ride, which must be completed before you sit your K Certificate Exams.

The 40 K ride generally requires a two month period to get horse and rider fit. Those riders who have kept their horse's fitness reasonably high during the Eventing season, may not need so long

a training time.

If you do start your training over Summer, do not ride in the middle of the day. It is better to train in the early mornings when the day is cooler, the horse is fresher and the ground is actually softer (on their feet - not for you to fall off onto!)

If you do get to some

summer riding camps, then they will help boost your fitness level, especially if you are riding for several hours each day.

As a result of your 40 K training, your horse will be much fitter and ready for Eventing and Hunting in 2005. I have included some Hunting information in this newsletter, as it is a great option to do.

Issue 7

October 2004

Special Dates:

- Saturday 16th October - Showjumping Training at Ringwood
- Tuesday 19th October - Leather workshop on making browbands
- 29th October - Bookings close for those wishing to do written C* & K Exams in December
- Tuesday 9th November - Browband Workshop at Ringwood
- Sunday 12th November - Dressage Day at Ringwood (Pony Club & Open) (Sections)

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Pauline Hill and Gypsy from Ringwood Horse & Pony Club came 2nd in the Pony Club Combination at the 2003 Summer Royal.

The Summer Royal will be held at Werribee.

You do not need to list any previous showing results to enter the classes



There are classes for all ages. Conformation is not to be taken into account

Special PC Event at the Summer Royal

Special Event for Pony Club Combinations

To be judged on Saturday 8th January

Each Pony Club may nominate one combination. The entry must be on separate Pony Club letterhead and signed by the D.C. Ringwood members interested in competing must see Kerry Hill or Marie Smith, ASAP, as entries close Monday 22nd October at 5pm. There is a \$15 entry fee.

Combinations will be judged and points allocated as:

Presentation: 25 points
Judged for Safety, Cleanliness

Flat Riding: 25 points
Judging includes riding with/without stirrups, correct leading legs at canter, diagonals, mounting & dismounting from both sides, length of stride, etc.

Jump Riding: 25 points
Trot over first jump, canter over second

Handy Mount Riding: 25

points
Open/Close gate, carry container of water from barrel to barrel

Total Points Available - 100 points

In the case of equality of points, a count back will take place on the flat riding.

The event will be held in heats, which will be posted at the Horse Superintendent's Office. Mounted Presentation at the completion of event approximately 3pm.

Pony Club Events at Summer Royal

Classes For Pony Club Members

Pony Club Members interested in competing must fill in the official entry form and have their DC sign the back, ASAP, as entries close Monday 22nd October at 5pm. There is a fee of \$15 per class.

Sashes for 1st placing, Ribbons to 6th place.

In all Pony Club events, full Pony Club uniform must be worn. Riders will be gear checked for uniformity and safety as per PCAV guidelines for dressage rules (Aug '04). Particular attention paid to bits, stirrups, safety helmets and top boots. Whips shall not exceed 770mm in length. No spurs other than dummy spurs not exceeding 3/4" may be used. Medical armbands compulsory.

Grading cards are NOT required to be produced on the day.

Classes 600-604 to be judged on cleanliness, suitability, safety, fit of gear and balance of horse and rider.

CLASS 600 - Pony Club Turnout, under 9 years
CLASS 601 - Pony Club Turnout, 9 years and under 12 years
CLASS 602 - Pony Club Turnout, 12 years and under 14 years

CLASS 603 - Pony Club Turnout, 14 years and under 16 years
CLASS 604 - Pony Club Turnout, 16 years and over.

Classes 605-609 to be judged on manners, paces, handling and presentation. Conformation not to be taken into account

CLASS 605 - Handler/Led Pony under 9 years
CLASS 606 - Handler/Led Pony, 9 years and under 12 years
CLASS 607 - Handler/Led Pony, 12 years and under 14 years
CLASS 608 - Handler/Led Pony, 14 years and under 16 years
CLASS 609 - Handler/Led Pony, 16 years and over.

CLASS 610 - Pony Club, rider under 9 years
CLASS 611 - Pony Club, rider 9 years and under 12 years
CLASS 612 - Pony Club, rider 12 years and under 14 years
CLASS 613 - Pony Club, rider 14 years and under 16 years
CLASS 614 - Pony Club, rider 16 years and over.
CLASS 615 - Pony Club Mount, 12 hands and under
CLASS 616 - Pony Club Mount, over 12 and not over 14 hands
CLASS 617 - Pony Club Mount, over 14 and not over 15 hands
CLASS 618 - Pony Club Mount, over 15 and not over 16 hands

CLASS 619 - Pony Club Mount, over 16 hands
CLASS 620 - Pair of Riders, under 12 years
CLASS 621 - Pair of Riders, 12 years and under 16 years
CLASS 622 - Pair of Riders, 16 years and over
CLASS 623 - Trio of Riders, under 12 years
CLASS 624 - Trio of Riders, 12 years and under 16 years
CLASS 625 - Trio of Riders, 16 years and over
CLASS 626 - Handy Mount (Activity/Trail Course), rider under 12 years
CLASS 627 - Handy Mount (Activity/Trail Course), riders 12 years and over

CHAMPION PONY CLUB TURNOUT - Sash
RESERVE CHAMPION PONY CLUB TURNOUT - Sash
CHAMPION HANDLER/LED PONY CLUB MOUNT - Sash
RESERVE CHAMPION HANDLER/LED PONY CLUB MOUNT - Sash
CHAMPION PONY CLUB RIDER - Sash
RESERVE CHAMPION PONY CLUB RIDER - Sash
CHAMPION PONY CLUB MOUNT - Sash
RESERVE PONY CLUB MOUNT - Sash

K Option—Showing (Section C)

On the previous page I have listed all the classes for the Melbourne Summer Royal.

If you wish to enter - there are no prior qualifications required, but you must get your entries in ASAP. A copy of the entry form is included in this newsletter.

For your actual K Option you must have competed in Saddle and Led Events other than those for Pony Club riders, but the Pony Club Ring at the Melbourne Summer Royal Show would certainly be of suitable standard.

The Candidate must present for Presentation with the horse in Show Condition - i.e. plaited, clipped, etc.

The candidate must present for this option in Hacking Jacket, hat, etc, and be able to demonstrate ringcraft - both under saddle and led. They must know how to fit and use a double bridle - and

they must have competed at Agricultural Shows, approved Horse Shows in Open Events—not just the Pony Club Ring, for at least 12 months.

The Candidate must know:

- How to prepare a horse for a Show - feeding, conditioning, cleaning, pulling and plaiting manes and tails, etc.
- The suitable saddlery/equipment to use for the various classes.
- The correct attire for the rider/leader.
- How to lead a horse in hand for showing purposes.
- How to train/school a horse for show work.
- Suitable workouts for the different classes
- Ringcraft

On the day of the Practical Test, the Examiner will ask questions on any aspect of

showing. The Candidate must present the horse as for showing - at a much higher standard than generally required for the “K” Test, and the Examiner will mark on this presentation. The Candidate will be asked to demonstrate showing a horse both in hand and under saddle, and to do certain workouts.

The Work Certificate must contain:

- An account of the preparation, presentation, feeding and daily care of the show horse.
- A brief record of show performances.
- A list of the equipment that is taken to the shows.
- An account of a day of showing - from the time of rising in the morning to the time the horse is put away at the end of the day.



WS Black Label and Caroline Wagner, winners of the 2004 Garryowen Equestrian Turnout.

C* - Showing Knowledge

Horse and rider must present as for the Pony Club Competition (including plaiting).

Candidates may be required to demonstrate plaiting.

Clipping - know the names and reason for different types of clips.

Know how to prepare a horse for clipping, and aftercare of the clipped horse.

Riding on the Flat will include:

Mount and dismount from either side. Vault optional.

Ride with the reins in one hand.

Work with confidence without stirrups at trot and canter.

Demonstrate correct position at all paces, independent of the reins.

Sitting trot and rise on correct diagonal from sitting trot.

Change diagonal smoothly.

Recognise diagonal and leading leg by feel.

Maintain a consistent contact through the reins, but not expected to shorten the frame of the pony.

Recognise that driving aids play a part in establishing and maintaining contact.

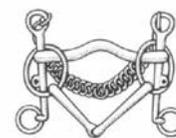
Develop working trot and canter and rhythm at all paces.

Ride with accuracy. Able to perform transitions at markers.

Walk, trot and canter a given number of strides.

Know the aids for, and be able to carry or the following movements:

- Circles to 10 m at walk; 15 m at trot; and 20 m at canter,
- Serpentine
- Lengthened strides at trot.
- Change of leg at canter through trot.
- Turn on the forehand.
- Correct use of a dressage whip.



Double Bridle bits - curb and bridoon

Helping other “show riders” prepare and compete, can give you heaps of hints and ideas.

Do you want to show your pony?



Don't go into the ring expecting to win, if you are not prepared to stand down the line on occasions with good grace you are better advised not to enter at all. There are sure to be others who have been working on their ponies longer and know more about the game.

For serious Showing, please consider your pony. It is most important that he should move straight and that his hind legs follow in the track of his fore feet with no dishing. Get a friend to lead him for you at a walk and then a trot, away and towards you and see for yourself. He must also have smooth action and it will be an enormous help if he really points his toes, there is no surer way of "catching the judge's eye". Naturally correct conformation, good head

carriage allied to quality and the indefinable "presence" will increase his chances.

For show classes, quality, which means good breeding, is very necessary. If your pony is a little lacking in this essential but a good hunter, it would probably be wiser to try him in hunter classes

Read your schedules really carefully, noticing exactly the height of the pony and the age of the rider. A class for a Novice Pony would be the best opportunity, but you may have to settle for an open height restricted class at a small local show.

The condition of the pony contributes enormously to his appearance, so his diet must be carefully studied. The oat content should be carefully balanced so that he is not too much on his toes, A twice weekly addition of some form of linseed will work wonders by putting a shine on his coat, and so will a small daily addition of sunflower oil to his feed. If you can keep him in with a rug on at night, it will help his coat lie flat and achieve that coveted silky look; but on warm days, turn him out for a few hours, the sun on his back and grass will do him a world of good physically, and mentally, help to relieve possible boredom.

Your pony's training and manners are important. He must stand still when mounted, walk freely, trot out, canter and be able to change legs. Probably in your show you will perform a figure of eight. He must never hot up and be-

come excited, even if the other ponies are playing up. Give your pony variety in his work to avoid monotony.

Make sure his mane and tail are pulled well before the show, a big session the day before will only upset him. The same applies to tidying up any long hairs on his heels or under his chin. If he has white socks, wash them and his tail the day before the show. The less you have to do on the big day the better, you can easily touch up any overnight stains.

Plaiting is best done the day of the show, unless you have a desperately early start. Make sure the plaits are neat and even and always stitch them with strong thread and a long big-eyed needle. Never use rubber bands, the real giveaway of the amateur. If you don't know how to, go and watch an expert.

Perhaps your pony is not used to floating. If so, try and practice several times before the day of the show, whether you are using a float or a truck. Reward the pony with some food when he is inside so he associates it with a pleasant experience.

You must check that your clothes are clean and well brushed and clean your tack the day before the show and put ready the cleaning kit you will need when there. A bucket of water for your pony and a filled hay net if it's going to be a long day.

Continued next page



Get up well before departure time on the big day, see that your pony is groomed and fed early. Travel him in a headstall, rug or light sheet (if it is a warm day), leg protection and tail bandage.

On arrival at the show try to find parking in the shade if its likely to be a hot day. Walk and look at the ring, collecting ring and on the way there, noting any dangers. Unload your pony, letting him take his time to come down the ramp, lead him round a little, then get up, and ride him, taking him as close to the ring as possible, accustoming him to all the strange sights and noises.

While your pony is being finally rubbed over and his hoofs painted or oiled, put on your showing coat and make sure you are tidy, then be off to the collecting ring, ready for your class. Note any ponies kicking or misbehaving and make sure you do not enter the ring next to them. Once in the ring, concentrate on your pony and keep them well spaced. Talk to him if he is too nervous, and it will reassure him and probably you too! Don't cut in on corners and keep an eye on the judge or steward for orders. When you are called into line prior to giving your workout, space yourself evenly, not on top of

the next competitor.

Make sure your pony stands square with his hocks well under him when you show him unsaddled in hand. When you lead out, turn him away from you, not towards you, and move sharply to demonstrate his action.

Your family will probably come with you to the show; the early starts, nervous tension, new friends, picnics, mud and scorching sun are just a few of the experiences which you can share and which can give tremendous pleasure and perhaps the final reward of some hard earned and much treasured rosettes.



With new Safety Rules, Top hats can only be worn by Advanced Dressage riders, and not in the warm up ring.

Candidates choosing this activity must show evidence in their work Certificate of having ridden a minimum of five (5) Dressage Tests under approved judges



K Certificate Option - Dressage (Section A)

On your assessment day candidates must choose an EFA Preliminary or Pony Club Stage 2 Dressage Test—and they must bring a copy of the test to be ridden.

The test must be ridden from memory and to a standard acceptable to the Examiner on the day of the Practical Test.

Candidates are required to know the theory and rules for this activity as they will be expected to answer questions about these, plus questions on how the horse performed during the ridden Test. Questions about the Test will relate to the straightness of the horse, smoothness of transitions, evenness of pace, bend, flexion and obedience of the horse.

Where the Candidate thinks the horse is going well - or

poorly, he should be able to tell the Examiner, and also explain what training has been done to correct faults noted in the ridden test.

Candidates choosing this activity must show evidence in their work Certificate of having ridden a minimum of five (5) Dressage Tests under approved judges, and have gained at least 50% of the possible marks. Include the Dressage Score Sheets in the appropriate place with the relevant Work Certificate. Dressage Tests must have been ridden within the previous two years, and the Judges' Sheets must clearly show the date and event where these Tests were ridden.

The Candidate must be able to:

- Apply the basic aids smoothly and accurately.

- Maintain a good even contact on the horse's mouth, thereby enabling him to accept the bit with confidence.
- Understand the meaning of dressage and schooling term.
- Understand the importance of warming up.
- Ride with even tempo and rhythm.
- Ride circles and corners with the correct bend.
- Perform smooth and accurate transitions.
- Perform all the movements required in an EFA Preliminary of Pony Club Stage 2 Dressage Test to a good standard - i.e. halts from walk and trot, medium and free walk, working and medium trot, working canter, and 20 metre circles.

Just Published - "Dressage Basics"

The AUSTRALIAN HORSE OWNER has just published a magazine on Dressage Basics. You can buy it from bookshops for \$9.95, or order it by ringing (02) 9439 1955.

The introduction explains the background to Dressage and gives a list of contacts for those wishing to gain further knowledge.

Other sections cover:

- The Dressage Horse
- Feeding and Conditioning
- A training Program
- A training Logic
- Outfitting Rider and Horse

- Grooming and Presentation
- Your first Competition
- Paralympic Dressage Team 2004

There are heaps of hints for riders at all Dressage Levels. This is an up to date publication that I would recommend to all riders.



K Option - Dressage Worksheet

Please note:

- **Candidates must write out a detailed training program for Horse and Rider.**
- **They need to explain how they care for the horse on the day of the competition, including some comments about how their horse handled the day and the tests he took part in.**

"Dressage Basics" will help you to complete this section.

Before you “Enter at A”

Jennifer Smith

Newcomers to dressage riding are fairly easily able to obtain copies of the tests they choose to ride, and generally ask friends or instructors for advice on how to ride the movements required.

The PCAV book “Dressage for the Pony Club” contains details of the tests, rules and arena markings.

In this age of increased informality, it is a lot harder to find out the “unwritten rules” of etiquette, and feel confident about correctly bridging the gap between riding up to the judge and commencing the test. Everyone would like to create the best possible impression.

Unfortunately, it is very hard to find a written list of requirements, and often these are glossed over by friends, who don’t wish to make the newcomer nervous.

The result of all this is sometimes frustrating and time consuming for the dressage judge and penciller. So, after listening to the comments of many judges and personally observing competitors presenting, I would like to share with other people a list of “do”s and “don’t”s that may help.

1. **Do** approach the judge when you can see he or she is no longer speaking to the penciller, or writing on a dressage sheet.

The Judge always sits at “C”, and almost always on the driver’s side of the vehicle, if one is used. The penciller sits in the front passenger’s position.

2. **Do** approach close enough

for the judge to speak to and be heard by you, and vice versa. Use some common sense if your horse is unsettled. The judge won’t appreciate damage to the vehicle!

3. “Good morning” or “Good afternoon” is appreciated as a preliminary greeting. (“Hi” is for less formal occasions. Save it for friends asking how you went.) You then state your name, the horse’s name, your competitor number and your club.

Do volunteer this information. Judges begin to feel like the Gestapo conducting an interrogation if every fact has to be prised out of the competitor.

Don’t forget this is a formal requirement as the entrance to the ring. It isn’t the time to show your surprise at recognizing the judge by saying “You took us at Pony Club last month, do you remember me?”

Judges are required to assess each performance impartially, and it is considered improper for a judge to assess a pupil or close associate in a competition.

Don’t embarrass the judge by seeming to compromise this relationship.

4. Wait for the Judge’s instructions. You will at least receive a “thank you” as an acknowledgement, and usually will be given other information.

Don’t dash off the minute you have said your bit. It is very frustrating for the judge to leap up and recall you, and he or she is obliged to give the same

information to everyone.

5. Should you find it difficult to hear a car horn or bell, it is quite permissible to ask the judge to wave when ready for you to start your test. However, the judge isn’t in a position to conduct a conversation with you on how to ride your test. So if you aren’t sure, for instance, whether rising or sitting trot is required, try to find out elsewhere.

6. No other people are permitted within 5 metres of the arena. This includes photographers, other competitors waiting, and people with video cameras. Make sure your parents and friends know about this.

7. When the judge has finished with the preliminaries, the rider then proceeds down the long side to “A”, to wait for the signal to start. It is usual to circle at “A”, but circling the entire arena is permissible. It is best to circle at the pace required for entry, to settle your horse for the start.

8. Once the judge has signaled for you to start, you have 60 seconds to enter the arena and start your test. You ride up the centre line, halt and salute. You put your reins and whip, if carried, in your left hand, drop your right arm to your side at the same time as you nod your head. The salute is an acknowledgment, not a theatrical flourish, and this is all that is required. You are now underway. Good luck, and enjoy the ride.



*What to do
before you
start your
dressage
test*



2004 Royal Melbourne Show PACIFIC LEAGUE WORLD CUP QUALIFIER



**Vicky Roycroft
at Werribee,
2003**

On Thursday evening, September 23rd we watched 25 riders jump under lights in the main arena - in the Pacific League World Cup Qualifier.

Only two riders had clear rounds in the first round, Vicky Roycroft riding Ricardo D and Brett Warren riding Winfield.

Five riders completed the course with only one pole down, all within the required time limit. They were Amanda Madigan (Havati), Robert

Agnew (DP Envy), Hayley Clohesy (Medicine Man), Melissa Froesch (Warlord II) and Chris Chugg (Kayak Van Het Gravenhof)

Two riders were eliminated, Paul Brent had knocked down several poles before his horse had two refusals, and, Surprisingly Vicky Roycroft on Premier Des Hayettes, who had two refusals at the first jump. It must have been having a really "off" day.

In the Jump Off, riders had to

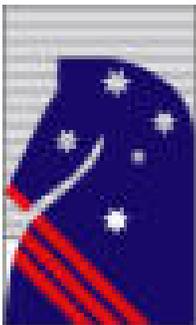
jump numbers: 2, 3, 4, 7a&b, 8, 9 and 10. (see map, dotted lines).

Vicky Roycroft went first and had a lovely clear round in 39.51 seconds.

Brett Warren followed, but knocked a pole at the first jump, and took it easy from then on. He came in second with a final result of two poles down in 54.06 seconds (obviously some time faults to add on to that score).

World Cup Show Jumping course:

**The World Cup
Course was set
up in the middle
of the Show
grounds.**



Zone Show Jumping - Qualifying Competitions

EVENT 1 Competition over two rounds - Article 273

Art. 273.1 This competition comprises, with the same speed, two courses, identical or different, either in track or in number of obstacles or in the dimensions of the obstacles. Each competitor must participate with the same horse. Competitors who do not take part in the second round cannot be

placed. Competitors, who have been eliminated or who have retired during the first round, may not take part in the second round.

Art. 273.2 - All the competitors have to take part in the first round. All competitors go into the second round, except for those eliminated or retired in the first round.

Art. 273.3.2
First round - Table A
Not against the clock but with a time allowed.

Second round - Table A

Not against the clock but with a time allowed.
(starting order) Reverse order of penalties in the 1st round; competitors retain their drawn order in case of equality of penalties.

Jump off - Same as second round

Art.274.2 - Competitors will be placed according to the penalties and time in the jump off. The remaining competitors will be placed according to aggregate penalties over both rounds.



EVENT 2 - Accumulator Competition - Article 269

Art.269.1 This competition takes place over 6, 8 or 10 obstacles with an increasing difficulty. Combination obstacles are not allowed. The increasing difficulty is not solely due to the height and spread of the obstacles, but also to the difficulty of the track.

Art.269.2 - Bonus points are

awarded as follows: 1 point for obstacle No 1 not knocked down, 2 points for No 2, 3 points for No 3, etc, with a total of 21, 36 or 55 points. No point is awarded for an obstacle knocked down. Faults other than knock-downs are penalised as for Table A

Art.269.3 - The competition will take place not against the clock with a jump-off in the case of equality of points. In the case a jump-off is

necessary, there will be a minimum of six obstacles, which may be increased in height and or spread. The obstacles in the jump-off must be jumped in the same order as in the first round and retain their respective points allotted in the first round.

**Competitors will be placed according to points and time in the jump-off.

Art.269.4 - Competitors not qualified for the jump-off are placed according to their points obtained in the first round, disregarding the time.

Art.269.5 For the last obstacle of the course, an alternative obstacle may be provided, of which one element may be designated the JOKER. The joker must be more difficult than the alternative obstacle and carry double points. If the joker is knocked down, these points must be deducted from the total points obtained so far by the competitor.



The Top four riders from A, B & C Grade Show Jumping will be required to compete at Tonimbuk - West Gippsland Zone, on 5th and 6th February.



Senior Huntsman and hounds

You need to write a report on how you prepare your horse for the Hunting season



K Option - Hunting (Section A)

We are very fortunate that the Lilydale and Yarra Glen Hunt Club operate within the North Metro Zone of Pony Club, and that one of the Hunt Club Members, Prudence King, is also our Zone Chief Instructor.

If you enjoy eventing, have a reasonably quiet horse and are able to ride during the week, this may well be the sport for you.

The Lilydale and Yarra Glen Hunt Club run "Hunter Schools" during March and April. These cater for all levels of riders and horses and are a great way to train your Eventer.

The classes normally go for two hours on a Saturday afternoon, usually being one hour of show jumping training, followed by an hour's cross country jumping and field work. You have opportunity to try your horse over various obstacles. I generally start low and work up to the larger jumps as the horse becomes more settled.

During the School Holidays the Club organizes "Junior Hunts. These days may be run in the Lilydale / Yarra Glen area, or may be as far a field as Yarrk (past Yea).

The Junior Hunts are lots of fun and you have the choice of following the hounds, jumping the low fences, or remaining with the pony group, who go through gates instead.

Any Junior hunts that you attend may be marked off on your K Option Worksheet.

You need to have hunted for at least one season to do this option, and have been present from start to finish of at least six hunts (to be signed by Hunt Official). If you only attend the Junior Hunts, this would take

you two years.

You will be examined on your knowledge of hunting etiquette and terminology.

Hunting Etiquette:

Remember that every custom or rule of the Hunting field is based on common sense.

If you are keen to hunt and observe "Hunting Etiquette", you may be surprised how much you will enjoy a day with hounds.

Dress:

Always turn yourself out as well as you are able to afford, as a compliment to the Master and the landowners over whose country you ride.

1. It is an unwritten rule of the Melbourne Hunt that no one should wear a pink coat except at the invitation of the Master. A Pink Coat is an indication of seniority.
2. Black hardhat, black coat, white stock, buff of light colour breeches, black boots, gloves.
3. Black hardhat, tweed coat, collar and tie, buff or light colour breeches, black or tan boots, gloves.
4. Junior Members: Black or Brown Hardhat, collar and tie, tweed or black coat, jodhpurs, gloves. Pony Club jumpers are NOT correct dress in the Hunting field. Girls should keep their hair tidy by means of a net, etc.

Field Manners:

1. Upon arrival at the Meet approach the Master, and irrespective of whether you know him personally or not, raise your hand and say "Good Morning Master". Also bid the Huntsman and Whippers-in "Good Morning". Be punctual at the

Meet.

2. If you spent just an odd day with a pack of hounds, and are not a member of the Hunt Club, contact the Secretary; do not wait for him to ask you for the Capping Fee.
3. If you choose to qualify your horse, notify the Master or Official in charge before the commencement of the Hunt. See that your horse goes through the Hunt satisfactorily and check in again at the end of the day.
4. When Hounds are not running, you should never get in front of the Master. Never get between the Huntsman and his hounds at any time.
5. When the hounds are drawing, keep with the rest of the field, closely bunched up and behind the Master. DO NOT at any time talk too loudly.
6. Junior Members must give consideration to Senior Members at all times. DO NOT ride on the heels of the Master's Horse.
7. The Master, the Huntsman and Whips have priority at gateways and when jumping an obstacle. Make way for the above by turning your mount's head towards them.
8. Never gallop immediately behind someone else. Also, when jumping, make sure you are always two lengths apart and to one side.
9. Never jump an obstacle unnecessarily or gallop through a herd of cattle or flock of sheep. Avoid crops by keeping well into the side fence of a paddock. If your horse refuses a jump, pull away from the fence

K Option - Hunting (Section A) - Continued

- immediately and cone at it at the rear of the field.
10. Remember the last man will not shut the gate, so make sure that somebody relieve you of the responsibility before you leave the gate open, or shut it yourself.
 11. Report any damage that you do the the Master, Secretary or Huntsman.
 12. If you see a hole or a stump or broken glass or any other danger, point it out with your hand out to others "Ware hole", "Ware glass". Etc.
 13. If you see the hunter fox, hold your hand up in the air.
- Car Followers:**
Park you car on the correct side of the road, in single file. Keep well clear of hunting fences. DO NOT make unnecessary noise when hounds are drawing a covert. **Always turn your engine off.**
- The Candidate must demonstrate ability to be in full control of his horse at all times, and adherence to the established etiquette of hunting - and know how to get the horse fit and prepare it for hunting, and to care for it during and after a hunt.

Lilydale & Yarra Glen Hunt Club - Talk at Ringwood Pony Club

A small but keen group of people listened to Kathy Stokes and Tamsin Dewe talking about their hunting experiences.

In Australia, there is none of the anti-blood sport protesting, that has been reported overseas. Generally the farmers welcome the hunt club, as a means of helping to keep down the number of foxes.

Lilydale employs a professional huntsman, Nick Bolton, who trains the hounds and is in charge of them during a hunt. The hounds are specially bred for their work - as hunting areas are limited in size, long striding hounds are not suitable.

There are very strict guidelines to follow, whilst hunting. The Field Masters are men (in pink/red coats) and ladies

(black coats) who are there to help people with problems. The hunters follow strict property "care" rules, such as leaving all gates closed. The Whippers help the huntsman and hounds. They ride along the fence line to help turn the fox (if he looks like he is going to escape from that paddock). This is important if the hunting is near busy roads and paddocks of vegetables!

When the hounds find a fox, the Master and the Whips must be prepared to follow the hounds and fox anywhere, jumping anything, including wire fences. The rest of the field will generally go a less direct route, over specially placed "hunting" panels. If the fox is lost, the dogs are rounded up and re-cast out for the fox

scent. When a fox is killed, it is a very quick process. The newcomers to the hunt may be "blooded" - that is when you have some fox blood dabbed on your face. You may even be awarded the brush - the fox's tail!

The hounds are specifically trained to only hunt foxes. They are not allowed to chase sheep, rabbits, cats, etc. Puppies are loaned out to people to "walk". They are looked after until they are old enough to join the pack. Reject hounds find other homes with other hunting sports, such as deer hunting. They are not suitable as family pets as they are too active.

Puppy hunts are an opportunity for the puppies to learn about

(continued over leaf)



Australia is one of the few remaining countries where fox hunting has not been banned.

Pony Club Members are always welcome at the "Junior Hunts" - generally held during the School Holidays.



You will need to describe a day at a hunt, including care of your horse, before, during and after the hunt.

Lilydale & Yarra Glen Hunt Club - Talk at Ringwood Pony Club - Continued



The Hunt Club may have up to forty pairs of Foxhounds, and the Hunt Master will know all of them by their individual names

Fox Hunting is an expensive sport, but there are ways of keeping the costs down, and the Club fees are reasonable.

Pictured right: Kerry Hill on Anchor and Emily Hardidge on Rancher at a "Junior Hunt" at Yarrk.

hunting. They are low key and usually held in very open paddocks. The unexpected can always happen. Sometimes a puppy or hound can get lost. When this happens the huntsman will have to stay in the area and wait for the dogs to return, or walk around with a hunting horn, calling for them. The huntsman must be totally dedicated to the hounds.

Some hunting etiquette is quite unusual. "Good morning" is always said, when you meet some one whilst hunting, no matter what time of day it is! "Try back" means that the hounds must go back to the huntsman. "Forrardon" is called out to spur the lagging hounds to catch up with the group.

On a hunt, a horse will generally travel about 20 to 25 kilometres. The hunters may canter/gallop after a fox for 1 to 4

kilometers, and occasionally you hear tales of a 10 kilometer flat out gallop. Horses must be fit. The Meet will start at 11am and finish about 4pm.

If you have a horse that is likely to pull or bolt, generally the more hunting opportunities that the horse gets, the quieter he will become. Puppy hunts are a good way to introduce a new horse to the sport.

If your horse is unfit, it is recommended that you slowly bring up his fitness. For the at least the first three weeks, you should only walk your horse. About 1 hour per day, 4 - 6 days a week. Then do some trotting and gradually increase to canter work. By the end of three months you will be able to do some bursts of fast canter and from then on, you should be able to keep your horse "ticking" along at a reasonable level of fitness.

At the end of any hunting day, it is a good idea to take some boiling water along in a thermos, which you can add to the cold water, so that it is lovely and warm to wash off all the horse's sweat. This is also a good idea for those people doing ODE's and endurance rides.

Lilydale and Yarra Glen Hunt Club has about 100 hounds, and will take about 60 hounds on a hunt. At the opening hunt for the season, you will expect about 70 riders, but in bad weather, later in the season, you may only have about a dozen riders.

Any one wishing to learn more about hunting, or joining the Hunt club, should contact Mr A. Hosier, PO Box 730, Eltham, 3095. Telephone 9844 12237, mobile 0416 037 922. Membership fees range from \$55 as a Hunt Supporter to \$436 for full membership.

