

The Pony Express

Season Issue No. 23 | December 2023



Tree-mendous costumes at Christmas Rally

Thank you to all of our riders who turned out in spectacular festive fashion for our annual Christmas Rally.

There were some fantastic costumes on display and you all looked amazing with bells, tinsel, stars, baubles all wrapped up with a bow on top!

Congratulations to Olivia Owen for

taking out the top costume prize for her interpretation of the Christmas Grinch and Max the dog (or pony!).

Our duo of Christmas Trees (Gemma Blackwell and Valee Pallin-Simmonds) came a very close joint second. Third place ribbon was presented to Christmas Elf, Penelope Morrissey. Amani Shaw representing a Kiwi Christmas took out fourth place whilst Cameron McPhillips and Ellie Deans collected fifth and sixth ribbons respectively.



Olivia Owen

What's in the news?



Cameron McPhillips & Gemma Blackwell

After the costume parade the riders were placed in teams ready to head out on horseback to take on the scavenger hunt. As the teams collected clues and solved riddles, it was a race to the finish line to be the first team back to win some lovely prizes.

Thank you to those of you who provided food for our delicious shared lunch.



Vallee Pallin-Simmonds



Penelope Morrissey



Ellie Deans

Class acts at Puhinui International 3DE

Three days of action packed fun in the sun recently as the International three day event took place at Auckland's Puhinui Reserve.

We are extremely proud to have so many of our PPC riders take on dressage, cross country and showjumping during what was a fantastic event.



Amani Shaw



Scout Lodder photographed by Libby Law

A outstanding performance by Scout Lodder on her mount Kingsguard secured them first place in the 2* class having lead from start to finish after securing an impressive dressage score of 71.59% Not only did she win the class but she also secured 4th place on her second horse Money Shout.



Piper Lodder photographed by Brittany Fowler

Team Lodder were on a roll as younger sister Piper finished a fantastic second place in the 95cm-B class, also going double clear in both jumping phases.

Coach spotlight

Each month, The Pony Express will be placing one of PPCs fantastic coaches under the spotlight as we get to know a little bit more about them. This month we get to know coach Phoebe Brown who not only coaches at PPC but will be supporting the Auckland Area PC dressage team at Champs.



At what age did you start to ride and how did it come about?

I was lucky that my mum had her own two horses before I was born, so there was never really a time that I wasn't around horses. One of my earliest memories was being plopped on Mum's big Irish hunter and tootling around the field. However, with no suitable ponies at the time, Mum enrolled me in riding school when I was 3-4 years old, which is when I started riding properly. When I was 5-6 years old my sister and I shared a lovely old Connemara pony, where I did my first mini ODE. Later, I had my own pony when I was 7 years old, who was the Devil condensed into a 11.2hh Welsh section A, and it all rolled on from there.

Do you still ride and what is your favoured discipline?

Yep absolutely. I have my 15 year old mare who I've had since she was 6, where we compete at level 6 dressage, and my just turned 6 year old homebred mare who is starting to get to grips with being under saddle. Dressage is definitely my favourite. It takes a lot of focus and finesse, which ironically is not me at all when I'm on the ground! I love that there's no limit to the journey and you can always keep going and exploring new avenues of how to create an even happier, healthier and stronger athlete of a horse. Once upon a time, eventing was my passion, but following a full rotational fall on cross country 10+years ago I don't enjoy jumping as much anymore, but still like to be around and be a part of it.

What do you like about coaching?

Seeing my students find the light bulb moment and seeing the improvement in the horses brings so much satisfaction and joy. Especially in younger riders and watching them evolve in their riding and expanding their knowledge to be a better rider for themselves and their horse.

What is your favourite holiday destination?

Not many chances for holidays haha! But when I can I like to head back to England and visit my family, especially around Christmas, with the chance of snow and the amazing Christmas lights.

Favourite flavour of ice cream?

Can never turn down chocolate ice cream, the more chocolatey the better.

What song is guaranteed to get you on the dance floor?

Dancing Queen will always get me up for a boogie.

If you had to leave home in a hurry, what three things could you not leave without?

Aside from the partner and the dogs, would probably be my horse hair bracelet, from my legendary horse Fox, my laptop, and the photo album.

What is on you Bucket List?

To watch all the dressage events at the Olympics in person.





NZPCA Champs Week

The North Island New Zealand Pony Club Championship Week is taking place at Clevedon Pony Club grounds 22-25 January 2024.

There will be lots of equestrian action as the event will feature mounted games, dressage and showjumping. There will also be representation from PPC riders who will form part of the Auckland Area team both in dressage and showjumping.

Auckland Area will have two teams in the dressage competition. Congratulations to Jessica Sutherland, Sophia Fitzpatrick, Kate McKeen and Geneva McLean for making the squad.



Kate McKeen

Auckland will also be entered in the Showjumping where PPC rider Charlotte Owen will be part of the team.

If you think you might like to be part of the Champs team, in the future, then there is the opportunity to gain a taster with the Rode to Champs classes being held alongside the main event. Check out what is on offer via the Clevedon Pony Club Facebook page or Evo Events.

Come along and take in all the action and we really need volunteers to assist with the show jumping - pole pickers, gate duty and scorer. Please email dc@papatoetoeponyclub.com if you can help.

On the hunt for a special rally



With thanks to Head Coach Kate Bull, we have a special rally on offer. On 7th January 2024, PPC members have the opportunity to attend the Pakuranga Hunt Club where riders will have the chance to ride the beautiful grounds, learn the rules of hunting and meet the hounds. Sign up is required via Enrolmy.

What would your perfect day look like?

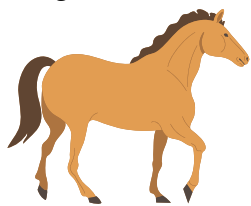
A slow start with French toast for breakfast, go for a fun hack around the farm, followed by some sort of family board game, then finish the day nestled around a bonfire, toasting marshmallows, and finally climbing into a freshly made bed.

Which fictional character would you most like to be friends with?

Probably Ginny Weasley from the Harry Potter book series. Down to earth, a good laugh and a sense for adventure.

Who is your hero?

Carl Hester. He always does right by his horses, made himself from the ground up, lovely character with a great sense of humour, and of course a dressage icon.



Out & About

Congratulations to those PPC riders who have been out and about competing over the past month. We love to see and hear

about your travels so please send news and photos via our PPC FaceBook Messenger.

Congratulations to the following riders for placing at their respective events.

Ariella Grant, Piper Lodder, Scout Lodder & Ellie Strachan - Reyna Equestrian Ltd Summer CCI - Taupo

Harriette Giltrap, Isabelle Hawkins, Charlotte Owen & Savanna Styles - Burmester Realty GP Show Jumping Show - Woodhill Sands

Gemma Blackwell & Olivia Owen - K3 Legal Showcross eventing - Whitford

Rebecca Dickens - Canter for Cancer Premier League Waitemata Dressage Championships - Woodhill Sands

Harriette Giltrap, Poppy Illston, Penelope Morrissey & Savanna Styles - Barfoot & Thompson Rural And Lifestyle Auckland Show Hunter Group Summer Show

Jayne, Camenzind, Lauren Keith, Cameron McPhillips & Phoebe Sayer - Beachlands Maraetai PC Showjumping Day



Cameron McPhillips

Working Bee



Just a polite reminder to please email details of your completed working bee hours to workingbees@papatoetoeponyclub.co.nz

Details should include your name (or rider name that you are representing), the event you worked at and what job you did and for how long.

Every family (includes multiple siblings) is required to complete 18 hours of working bee. If a sibling is 18 years or over, they will also be allocated 18 hours in addition to the 'family' working bee requirement.

Carry on camping!

Before you know it, Christmas will be done and dusted and we will have welcomed in the New Year. But whilst the tinsel may have been packed away, it's great to know that we will still have something to look forward to with our annual PPC Camp!

This year we are very excited to confirm that we will be spending this year's camp at the fantastic EventStars based near Cambridge.

For those of you not familiar with EventStars, it was founded by Gina Lee Schick over 15 years ago to cater to a gap in the New Zealand sport horse market by supplying riders with reasonably priced youngsters. She recognised the versatility and trainability of Thoroughbreds on and off the track; and sort to assist in solving the issue of the high number of racehorses retiring each year without homes.

At their fantastic facility, camp attendees will have the opportunity to partake in cross country, show jumping, flat work, canter work on a raceway and hacking across beautiful farmland.

If you have not yet signed up then please message Kate Bull on headcoach@papatoetoeponyclub.co.nz



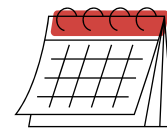
Happy Hacking

It's great that we have all been able to enjoy riding in our paddock once again following the successful horse trial and a few sunny days.

A reminder to please avoid riding in any paddock that contain sheep or cows. Please only jump fences that are flagged and please ensure that you are wearing a back protector.

If you are unfortunate to take a tumble, please do not forget to report this via the PPC website (accident/incident form).

All the latest details on which paddocks are accessible can be found pinned at the top of the PPC Members Facebook page.



What's on

Keep your eye on your email inbox and the PPC Facebook pages for lots of action and activities happening at the Club.

Here's a look ahead to what's coming up in the next few weeks out and about.

January 2024

6/7th - G.J. Gardner Homes New Year GP Show Jumping @ Woodhill

7th - PPC visit to Pakuranga Hunt Club

11-14th - PPC Camp @ EventStars, Cambridge

12-14th - SJ Waitemata Archibald & Shorter North Shore World Cup Festival@ Woodhill

13/14th - Dressage - Two day Summer Bonanza @ Waikato Equestrian Centre

13/14th - BOPSH Summer Show Inc NI SH Championships @ Rotorua A&P Showgrounds

14th - Massey Pony Club Show Jumping Series Day 3

19th-21st - AMDG Kiwi Arena Rakes Premier League Championships @ Clevedon Showgrounds

20th/21st Brookby Show Jumping @ PPC

20th - Northland Show Hunter Canter For Cancer @ Barge

20-25th - NZPCA Champs Week @ Clevedon PC

21st - Coatesville Pony Club Mini ODE

26/27th - NZ Youth Dressage Festival @ NEC Taupo

February

3rd/4th - 38th North Island Pony Club Show Jumping Champs @ Kihikihi Domain

10th - Waikato Show Hunter Summer Show @ NEC, Taupo

10/11th - Brookby Horse Trial @ PPC

6th - Dressage Waikato Festival Champs @ NEC, Taupo

17/18th - Timberlands North Island Teams Event

24/25th - Carriage Driving Champs @ PPC





*On behalf of Papatoetoe Pony Club,
the Committee would like to wish you
and your family a very*

Merry Christmas!

See you in 2024.





CHANGE *the* REIN

**Own your journey –
be proud to be here**

Make sure your unicorns are happy

Give newcomers a leg up

Rein in rubbish behaviour

Be a good person

And remember none of us can do this sport
without our amazing volunteers and officials so
give them a great big smile and thank them!

#changetherein



**EQUESTRIAN SPORTS
NEW ZEALAND**

