



Walkerville Branch of the South African Pony Club



Newsletter

July 2010

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- **Next rally**



The long school holidays have left a bit of a gap in the communication, so this newsletter is going to be quite long – but filled with lots of interesting feedback and information on upcoming events.

Firstly, welcome to our newest member, Samantha Kruger, who joined in May. Her birthday was in July (happy birthday) and invited all the pony club kids who were not on holiday to go on a birthday outside – which was stunning! Thanks to Sam and Di for the lovely ride and the yummy food!

Equine Behaviour & saddle fitting rally

Our rally in May was held at the Walkerville Show grounds, and we had Nicole from the Tack Shop come and give a very informative talk about how to fit your saddle. We then had a lovely time playing games – mounted and unmounted. All those that participated were grinning from ear to ear by the time we were finished, so I think it was very successful. Photos and a write up are in the latest edition of the HQ Pony magazine – definitely get a copy!

Pony Club Inter Branch

Several members went to ride at the Gauteng & Limpopo Region Pony Club Inter Branch & Inter Regional competition at the end of May. Well done to all the riders that competed: Courtney, Donnelly, Gabriella, Luca, Sam, Kim and FJ. Also a great big thank you to the members that didn't get to ride but came along to help as the ground crew with the Little League (which Walkerville ran) – Kelly and Michelle.

Holiday activities

There were quite a few activities that happened during the school holidays. I gather that many members did go away as there wasn't a lot of response to the e-mails – I hope you all had a fantastic holiday!

2010 Committee:

Chantal Gomes 083 785 4968, Michelle MacKenzie 083 785 4967, Jacky Veness 082 495 0493



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Games clinic

At the beginning of the holidays, Des Patterson from the Irene-Midrand Branch (the current games champions) held an unmounted games clinic at the Riverpark Stables. Since the annual Inter Branch Games competition is coming up sometime in October, we thought it would be a good idea to learn how to play the games! It was a great morning where all the members who came had to run a lot (on sand!!!) but came away with a much better knowledge on which games would be played, and some very handy techniques to use.

The Walkerville branch would love to attend the games this year, so we will be putting in some practice sessions before selecting the teams. More information will follow in a later newsletter.

Highveld Horse Care Unit

A number of members spent a day during the holidays at the Highveld Horse Care Unit doing volunteer work. Although it was a lot of hard work, they were all smiling at the end of the day! Well done for giving of your time.

Eventing Clinic

Irene-Midrand Branch held an eventing clinic for keen eventers of all ages and levels of experience. The classes started from lead rein up until the more experienced eventers who were jumping 80cm. A number of our members attended that and had a brilliant time out in the country.

Next rally - Colleen Kelly Clinic

Colleen Kelly, who is a world renowned Biomechanics coach, teaches riders how to best use their balance, seat and posture. She has donated a lunch time seminar to pony club – and I would encourage everyone to attend. There is **a very special price of R50** for Pony Club branch members! It is to be held in Kyalami on Saturday 24th July from 12:00 – 13:00.

What is even more exciting is that she has asked for 3 pony club riders to help her demonstrate. Courtney MacKenzie, our Head Girl, has been selected as one of the riders!

This will be our July rally, so please do make an effort to attend. If anyone needs help with transport or directions, please contact me.

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Efficiency tests

We will be testing on the Efficiency badges at the end of September. Below is a list of the levels that each member will be tested on. For a list of all the requirements, please visit the website www.ponyclubgauteng.co.za . Our August rally will be a preparation rally, and we may also hold some unmounted night rallies to prepare members. If you have any questions, please contact me.

I do have 1 **Manual of Horsemanship** in stock if anyone is interested in buying it. The cost is R200. Otherwise there is 1 in the WPC library that can be borrowed for short periods.

MEMBER NAME	EFFICIENCY TEST
Michelle	E
Luca	D
Dakota	D
FJ	D
Samantha	D
Wesley	D
Liam	D
Kelly	D
Gabriella	D+
Kim	D+
Savannah	D+
Donnelly	C+
Courtney	C+

I hope to see all of you next weekend at the seminar.

Happy and safe riding,

Chanty

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