



Central Scenes

Central Zone Newsletter

April 2026

PCV Dressage and Showjumping Championships

The State Dressage and Showjumping Championships in 2026 were held at Warrnambool on Feb 21/22. Fine and hot for the Showjumping on Saturday but unfortunately, the dressage riders had to deal with heavy rain on Sunday afternoon. Central Zone fielded teams in grades 2, 3 & 4 in dressage, B, C & D grades in Show Jumping and individuals in Adv and Grade1 Dressage and A grade SJ.

Last year, all 6 teams placed; this year, 4 won and 1 placed. Central was again the only zone to field a team in all sections. We also had 3 individual champions. CZ riders excelled in representing the zone.



Showjumping

The State Champs started with the Show Jumping on the Saturday.

A grade Individual Showjumping



Champion: Tex Lang (Gisborne PC) riding *Stoneleigh Sunday Rose*. Tex and Sunday were the only combination to have 2 clear rounds.

Tex also placed 5th on *Chatswood Delago*.

Lincoln Dougall placed 6th riding *Ninja Warrior*

B grade Showjumping Team - Champions

Lincoln Dougall (Kilmore PC) riding *Forrestor Creation*

Emily Atkinson (Gisborne PC) riding *Night King*

Darcy Macaulay (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Parklands Time Traveler*



The B grade team perfected their lines and approaches walking the course with James Lang.

In the individual placings, Lincoln and Emily placed 3rd and 4th in the 2-round class and 4th and 5th overall on equal points.

C Grade Show Jumping competitors

The zone team



Penny Mawhinney (Bullengarook PC) riding *Bo Peep*

Nikita Cotter (Gisborne PC) riding *Silver Storm*

Michelle Woodcroft (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Bobby B Dazzled*

Jasmine Coady (Bullengarook PC) riding *Ferrari Park Autumn Gold*



Abbie Fosnaugh (Gisborne PC) riding *Champagne Magic* was **C Grade Champion**

D grade Show Jumping Team - Placed 5th



Sophie Wall (Macedon PC) riding *Lexi*

Amelia Harris (Whittlesea PC) riding *Rosette Ties*

Grace Bradshaw (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Jayde*

Summer Doyle (Bullengarook PC) riding *Karlana Ima Kool Kat*

Unfortunately, Summer had a fall and ended up in hospital with concussion. We hope she has made a speedy recovery.



On Saturday night, some families attended the official dinner and some relaxed at the camp.

Dressage

The competition was held on Sunday Feb 25.

Advanced Grade 1 (individual)

Darcey Macauley (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Parklands Faltango* – 2nd overall

Grade 1 (Individual):

Kathryn Bartlett (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Yarrumdoc Debutante* – 2nd overall

Annabelle Ennis-Wert (Werribee PC) riding *Its Overcast* – 5th overall



Annabelle Ennis-Wert's *Its Overcast* was the grade1 OTT winner.



Grade 2 Team: Champions



Michelle Woodcroft (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Bobby B Dazzled* and *Strutin to a Tribute*
Amelia McDougall (Gisborne PC) riding *JKE Arlington*



Michelle Woodcroft's *Bobby B Dazzled* won the grade 2 Off The Track Individually, Michelle, riding *Bobby B Dazzled*, placed 3rd overall. In test 2.3, Michelle placed 3rd and Tamsyn Harvey (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Misty Night* placed 4th.

Grade 3 Team: Champions



Zone Team

Eva Potesta (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Mithril Samwise*
Darcy Christian – riding *Warrina Constellation*
Eva Potesta – riding *Brookside My Favourite*

Grade 4 Team: Champions

Anneka Bean-Thornton (Woodlands PC) riding *Habafield Jett*
Jayde Coady (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Weston Park Minardi*
Marli Potesta (Riddells Creek PC) riding *Harry*
Anneka was the individual grade 4 champion.



C certificate



Congratulations to these riders who completed their C certificate on March 14.

Illiana Way	Macedon
Abbey Brinkhuis	Riddells Creek
Zoe Roberts	Riddells Creek
Bailey Sant	Whittlesea
Lauren Petricola	Whittlesea
Ainslee McDaniel	Woodlands
Melody McDaniel	Woodlands
Chloe Beardsley	Melton
Eliza White	Melton
Jayde Woolfe	Melton
Jayde Coady	Bullengarook

Jayde Kirkham, the Zone examining Secretary, reported: Well done to all of the riders who completed their C Certificate assessments at Riddell Creek PC. Thank you to Riddells Creek for hosting. Aimee Cuthbert and I were assessing the candidates and it was fantastic to see how knowledgeable, kind, and supportive this group of riders were. It was a great day, as always! J

The Spring C cert assessment day is scheduled for October 3. The C cert book can be purchased from PCA. The online assessment must be completed before the practical assessment. Contact the Zone Examining Secretary Jayde Kirkham jayde.kirkham6@gmail.com for more information.

Riders Represent Australia

China



Congratulations to Woodlands Pony Club member Maya Whalen who was selected for the team selected to represent Australia in the upcoming international exchange with China Pony Club this March. Over 10 days, the team will travel to Gold Saddle Equestrian Club in Guilin and Capitano Pony Camp in Nanning, taking part in riding, cultural activities and shared learning experiences with Chinese riders. From competition days and trail rides to bamboo rafting, sightseeing and travelling by high-speed train, the exchange promises to be both an equestrian and cultural adventure.

For our riders and officials, this is far more than a riding trip. It is an opportunity to build friendships, broaden perspectives and represent Pony Club Australia on the international stage.



Maya and the team setting out on their journey.

United States



The next International Mounted Games Exchange will be held in the United States 🇺🇸 in July 2026, where riders will once again have the opportunity to demonstrate teamwork, horsemanship and global friendship at the highest level.

We are very excited to announce Jack Hamilton as the Victorian Selection for the **Pony Club Australia** 2026 Mounted Games Team

France



Congratulations to 17yo Harry Brennan, who has been selected to travel to France to again represent Mounted Games Australia. Harry also represented Australia in 2025. An amazing achievement.

Mounted Games Australia is not part of Pony Club, but the riders start playing games and learn their skills at rallies and PC competitions.

Reg Cleland OAM



If you've competed in show jumping in this country, no doubt you've jumped over a course designed by Kilmore local Reg Cleland OAM.

Reg's story is a remarkable one. Growing up in rural Victoria, he left school at just 13 and built a lifelong connection with horses that would take him around the world. Starting out as a truck driver and strapper at shows across Victoria, Reg soon became a trusted figure behind the scenes of the sport, setting fences, stewarding events and eventually designing courses.

Over the decades he helped shape show jumping in Australia and internationally, judging events in countries like Germany, Ireland and England and contributing to major competitions including World Cups and Olympic events.

Closer to home, Reg spent 13 years as the grounds manager at Werribee Park, playing a key role in establishing the Werribee Equestrian Centre and supporting major international competitions hosted in Victoria.

From Pony Club to world-class arenas, Reg has given decades of service to the equestrian community.

Ponyclubbers will be interested to learn that the PCV State Showjumping Championships were originally organised by Reg and the late John Barlee.

His dedication was recognised with an Order of Australia Medal, an honour that quietly acknowledges the enormous contribution he has made to the sport.

A remarkable life supporting those in the saddle, behind the scenes. Congratulations, Reg. 🐎🇦🇺

April Zone Meeting

The zone meeting was re-scheduled to March 26 to avoid Easter. It was held on zoom and there were 16 clubs represented. An outstanding turnout. Those delegates can report any matters of interest back to their clubs.

Here are the reports from Jo Brennan, CZ Rep and Meaghan Sutherland, ZCI to help your memory.

State Zone Representative Panel Report

March 2026 (April moved due to Easter)

Dates to Remember

- **11-12 April 2026** – Higher Certificate Workshop – *Riddells Creek Pony Club*
- **16–17 May 2026** – State Horse Trials – *Colac Pony Club*
 - **TD:** Andrew Hosier
 - **Show Jump Judge/Course Builder:** Ian Box
 - **XC Course Builder:** Jared Stanley
 - **Course Control/XC Dressage:** Beth McCann
 - **Canteen:** Lockhart Pony Club
- **24 May 2026** – Central Zone Kay Irving Games, Flat C Musical Ride Qualifiers – *Woodlands Pony Club*
- **20–21 June 2026** – State Kay Irving Games, Flat C Musical Ride – *Bacchus March Pony Club*
- **2 August 2026** – Lowden Shield – *Woodlands Pony Club*
- **29 November** – Fimister Shield – *Gisborne Pony Club*

Congratulations to all riders who attended the State Showjumping and Dressage in Warrnamboo Despite a few hiccups, CZ was very well represented.

Thank you to Meaghan for managing all the ins and outs—it's very much appreciated, and we're lucky to have you in our zone.

State Council discussed the following items:

- **Consumer Affairs**

As mentioned in my February reports, we have been reviewing clubs closed and or not up to date with Consumer affairs. I have now emailed each of those clubs and will seek PCV to check compliance in the next month.

General discussion around rules and also roles and responsibilities.

Calendar Bookings

The new calendar booking system has had a great start—thank you to everyone who has completed the required information.

Bookings can be made via the link below:

<https://form.jotform.com/252887115057058>

Certificates

Congratulations to all our C & D* riders who passed their assessments in March and again, thank you to Riddells Creek for hosting the Coaching workshop in conjunction with this event.

Reminder – There have been multiple emails, reports, and reminders regarding the C Certificate and requirements. If you are 14 years or older and have been in Pony Club for two years, this certificate is mandatory to compete at any State event.

We were contacted in January by riders wanting to complete, however these riders did not appear in March assessments.

Our next CZ assessment will be held in October 2026.

If you require your certificate before then, you must contact Jayde Kirkham to obtain approval to attend an assessment in another zone. Other zones do not have access to our data and therefore can complete the entry, only Jayde can.

Fuel Issues

It has become evident that rising fuel prices are leading to events being cancelled or postponed. This is a challenging time that we all need to navigate together.

As costs increase, people will understandably become more selective about which events they attend, as it may not be feasible to participate in everything.

This could present an opportunity for clubs to collaborate—pooling resources and coordinating event days to run joint events. By working together, clubs can offer more while allowing participants to make a single trip, helping to reduce costs for everyone involved.

Thanks, Jo



CZ Chief Instructors Report April 2026

Wow what a big couple of months!

Certificates

C Certificate assessment day 14th March 2026 @ Riddells Creek Pony Club in combination with the State Workshop, was a great success with 11 riders completing their C Certificates and 2 with lame ponies needing to do their ridden component in October. We also had 1 D* certificate assessment, which was a great help to the State Workshop unit that discussed assessments at club level and how to set up theory sessions and carry out assessments.

Higher Certificate weekend C*/ K/ B/ A Pre Assessments and Assessments 11th & 12th April 2026, JustGo link for registration for assessment/ pre assessment (B) and training now live. Saturday will be a training day, with units of competency ticked off as we go and full assessment on Sunday. Those training for C*/ K may have areas ticked off if found competent and if looking 100% ready on Saturday can upgrade to assessment for Sunday.

Coaching Accreditation

State Workshop on the 14th March @ Riddells Creek, training on the Saturday and assessments on the Sunday, was well attended and well received. We assessed 2 foundation and 5 preliminary coaches. Congratulations from Central Zone to Tamsyn Harvey (RCPC) Foundation coach, Isabell Woodvine (Kilmore) and Lauren Cocks (RCPC) for completing their Preliminary Coaching Certificates. These weekends wouldn't be possible without the demonstration riders and we had over 15 riders from 4 clubs assist over the weekend. They have all been sent thankyou certificates from the zone.

Meaghan also commented that the up-dated rules for the President’s Cup and the rules for the new CZ Dressage series have been emailed to clubs and will be posted on the CZ website.

www.centralzonevic.com

Up-coming events

The next zone event is the Games, Flat Teams and Musical Ride Champs on May 26 at Woodlands PC. This is a qualifier for the State Champs but is also a fun day for younger riders who may not be ready yet to compete at State level but will enjoy the experience of riding in a team. If clubs do not have sufficient riders to make up a full games or flat team, composite teams with other clubs can be arranged. There is also opportunity for assisted riders to participate.

The Musical Ride is a chance to dress up and be creative.



MARCH	
Thurs 26	Central Zone Meeting 8pm online
Sat 28	Woodlands Freshmans showjumping
Sun 29	Whittlesea PC CTD- cancelled
Sun 29	Gisborne PC Open show
APRIL	
Thu 2	Central Zone Meeting 8pm Ross Watts Hall, New Gisborne- rescheduled to March 26
Fri 3	Good Friday
Sat/Sun 4/5	Easter Saturday & Sunday Riddells Creek Pony Club Easter Horse Trials
Sat 11	
Sun 12	
Weds 15	XC clinic @ Riddells Creek
Sat 18	Melton Pony Club Pony Club and Open Jackpot Dressage and CTD- cancelled
Sun 19	
Sat 25	Anzac Day
Sun 26	Macedon Pony Club showjumping (Presidents Cup Qualifier)
MAY	
Sat 2	Lancefield PC and Open CTD
Sun 3	
Sat 9	Woodlands Pony Club Show
Sun 10	
Sat/Sun 16/17	PCV HT Festival @ Colac
Sun 17	
Sat 23	
Sun 24	CZ G/F/MR @ Woodlands
Sat 30	
Sun 31	Gisborne Pony Club and Open Dressage and Combined Training

The full calendar can be found on the CZ website. www.centralzonevic.com

Leonie Lang
 Newsletter editor
 Central Zone of PCV