Central Scenes

Central Zone Newsletter

October 2026

CZ riders were busy going into spring.
First up was the **Ride To Time Championship.**
This was held on September 25 at Southside Racing, Cranbourne racecourse.
In the Ride To Time discipline, combinations compete at racecourses in qualifiers over 1000m aiming to ride the optimum time which is set according to the combinations grade. The skill is based on the riding and timing skills of jockey's/trackwork riders.
Each of the 10 zones can nominate a competitor for each section.
To compete, riders must be graded by their DC at either Maiden (1000m/120secs) or Open (1000m/109 secs) level.

In an exciting final, Tessa (Williamstown PC) represented CZ in the Maiden and Annabelle (Werribee PC) represented CZ in the Open.

PCV Awards 2026

While our riders continue to strive towards excellence, the coaches and administrators who train and support them are also recognised. This year, the final lists of nominations for the PCV Annual Awards feature numerous CZ riders, coaches and volunteers. Congratulations to all.

Alumni: Meaghan Sutherland
Best Achievement by a Rider 18-25 : Darcy Macaulay, Lauren Cocks, Madeleine Manton
Club of the Year: Riddells Creek
Coach of the Year: Niree Weybury & Dan Foster
Off the Track Heart Horse: Clara Greenwood and Who's Johnny
Off the Track Performance Horse: Emily Atkinson and Night King
Young Coach of the Year: J'Aime Mallon, Michelle Woodcroft

Royal Melbourne Show

When CZ riders create fancy dress costumes for the Melbourne Royal, the results are amazing.

Charlie and her entourage from Gisborne placed first with a Candyland theme.

GiGi the mermaid accompanied by Aston, Peyton and Sutton, all from Gisborne, placed 2nd.

The Cowgirls placed third. They were led by the amazing Alex with riders from the following clubs-
Macedon: Aida, Isabella;
Gisborne: Sophie, Isabelle, Ava, Ferne.

Congratulations to you all on an outstanding effort.

Certificate Assessment Day

The last C/D* certificate assessment day was held at Werribee PC on the October 3. Thanks to Werribee for hosting and to the parents for bringing the riders over for the assessment. The rain was heavy and unrelenting so it was fortunate that the indoors at Werribee was available. The XC, of course, was not. The assessors, Meaghan, Aimee and Wayne made do.

All candidates on the day were successful - well done!

They were:

Certificate	Rider	Club
C	Georgia Bradley	Woodlands
C	Ellie Vasconcelo	Woodlands
C	Maggie Jackson	Riddells Creek
C	Jaxon Christian	Riddells Creek
C	Poppy Quay	Riddells Creek
C	Grace Mackenzie	Riddells Creek
C	Marli Potesta	Riddells Creek
C	Emily Beven	Riddells Creek
C	Portia Currier	Gisborne
C	Alyssa Roberts	Gisborne
C	Charlotte Landells	Gisborne
D*	Isabella Burrill	Macedon

Jayde's report to the October zone meeting is as follows:
Next C Certificate Assessment – Saturday 20th March 2027 (tbc but will be in March)
• Both D and D* certificates are prerequisites for the C certificate.
• Pony Club Victoria requires riders aged 14 and over who have been members for two or more years to hold a C Proficiency Certificate to complete at a state level event (including games, musical ride, dressage, etc).
• Riders must ride a qualified horse for the assessment – e.g. have attended 2 rallies
• Riders must register for the assessment days before the closing date (not after!)
• Reminder to keep certificates up to date on Just Go please
Jayde Kirkham
Zone Examining Secretary

Woodend/Kyneton Club Merger

Effective from 1st July 2026 the Committees and members of Kyneton & District Horse & Pony Club and Woodend Pony Club are delighted to announce the merger of our two clubs to form the Kyneton & Woodend Horse & Pony Club Inc. Rallies are held at Rollinson Reserve in Kyneton on the 1st Sunday of the month.

This milestone marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for our riders, families, volunteers, coaches, and supporters.

Both clubs have a proud history of supporting young riders, fostering horsemanship, and creating lifelong friendships within the Pony Club movement. By joining together, we are creating a stronger and more sustainable club that will continue these traditions while expanding opportunities for future generations.

We are holding a Celebration of the 54 years of Woodend Pony Club on Saturday 24th of October 2026 from 3pm onwards at the current Woodend Pony Club grounds.

Central Zone AGM and October meeting.

This was held at the Ross Watts Hall in New Gisborne on Thursday October 8. The minutes will be distributed when available.

The new CZ Exec as elected at the AGM is the same line-up as before.

All the Exec for 2027 can be seen in Who's Who on the CZ website www.centralzonevic.com

Planning for the 2027 calendar was discussed. An online submission process has been developed. A provisional calendar for 2027 will be published on the CZ website in December. Clubs are encouraged to keep sending in dates.

Leonie Lang
CZ newsletter editor